

Prinsep (J.)
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STRICTURES AND OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

MOCURRERY SYSTEM

OF

LANDED PROPERTY IN BENGAL.

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR

THE MORNING CHRONICLE,

UNDER THE SIGNATURE OF

GURREEB DOSS,

WITH REPLIES.

L O N D O N :

REPRINTED, BY PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR,

F O R

DEBRET, IN PICCADILLY.

THE MORNING CHRONICLE

LANDING PROPERTY IN BENGAL

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR

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UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

CURRANT & CO.



PRINTED BY

LONDON

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FOR

THE MORNING CHRONICLE

Advertisement

The necessity of applying bengal terms
technical language may seem to require
a glossary to this publication. But as it
will probably attract the attention of few
readers who have not perused Mr. Roue's
~~Dissertation~~ ^{on} landed property of Bengal, the
writer best leave to refer to ~~the~~ ^{one} Glossary at the
end of that Dissertation

requote. Année des Hommes, cited by Roue p. 90 in
support of the Ryot. as holders of the Harim

Continued

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P R E F A C E.

*M*OST of these Letters were published, and all of them were written, in the year 1792, shortly previous to the establishment of the system. *to an immoderate* they are intended partially to impeach, and with a view to prevent its adoption, by an exposure of its defects. Such as were published, appeared in the Morning Chronicle, which was chosen, not as the vehicle of party sentiment, (for the author is of no party) but as a paper of extensive circulation and fame. A daily print offered the earliest, if not the most eligible mode of conveying the author's opinion, both to those who were to decide upon the measure, and to the public at large. His name was only withheld, because he did not wish it to have any influence on the effect of his arguments.

Under the feigned signature of Gurreeb Doss, these Letters did not pass unnoticed at the time. Among other animadversions, they were answered by a Gentleman, to whom the East-India Company is much indebted for great and able exertions in their Revenue Department. Much as the author differs from this Gentleman on the system in question, he unites with every one who has a knowledge of his character and conduct, in commendation of his zeal, integrity, and talents. Mr. Law, with his usual candor, subscribed his name to the answers he published, and, the progress of the correspondence in the Morning Chronicle being interrupted by the important and eventful revolution of France, which filled the daily papers and absorbed the public attention, the discussion was continued by each party without communication with the other. Had the Printer been able to restore the Letters of Mr. Law, which have not appeared in print, the whole would now, with that Gentleman's concurrence, have been published entire,

P R E F A C E. ▼

entire, in order that the public might be in possession of the whole of the arguments on a subject of considerable importance to the British interests in India. Unfortunately, however, though repeatedly enquired for, they could never be found.

When the author republishes Mr. Law's name, he feels it incumbent on him to subscribe his own. He is aware, that his Letters contain many inaccuracies, but he is persuaded a liberal allowance will be made for the haste, under the pressure of which they were unavoidably composed, in order that his sentiments might be communicated to Sir John Shore, previous to his departure for India.

As the system here commented upon, has long since been carried into effect, it is necessary to explain the use and intention of the present publication. Regulations have already taken place in India, which admit of such a qualification of
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the plan, as will extend to the redress of many, if not the whole of the inconveniences which the author, previous to its institution, pointed out. He observes, with infinite satisfaction, that the Government of Bengal, convinced of the hardship and injustice which the Ryots are doomed to suffer under the Mocurrery system, have already adopted some of those measures for their relief, which it was the object of his Letters to suggest.

The proclamation which announces to the natives of India the confirmation of the decennial or mocurrery settlement, is herewith published; by which it will appear, what reservations have been made in favour of the Ryots, and what stipulations for such future remedies as experience may point out to be necessary to curb the oppressive use of that power over them, which this system, perhaps too lavishly, entrusts to the Zemindar.

For

P R E F A C E.

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For the further protection of the natives in general, Courts of Appeal have been established at the Presidency, at Moorsshedabad, Dacca, and Patna, for revising the decrees of the Zilla, or Provincial Courts, and all judicial authority has been severed from the Office of Revenue Collector.

These changes in the system inspire the Author with a hope, that his suggestions may be the means of further meliorating the condition, and of ultimately establishing the rights of that useful and blameless race of men, the native cultivators of land in India; nor does he despair of ~~inducing~~ ^{that} the Noble Marquis, just returned from the Government of India, which his wise and virtuous Administration has rendered a blessing to the country, ~~to~~ ^{may well be induced to} add his powerful support to the Author's feeble efforts in their favor.

*London,
the 12th Feb. 1794.*

J. PRINSEP.

For the further protection of the natives in
General Courts of Appeal have been established
at the Presidency, at Moorshedabad, Dacca,
and Lahore, for reviewing the decisions of the
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and blunders race of men, the native civil-
izers of land in India; nor does he desire to
insure the Noble Marquis, and returned from
the Government of India, which has been
without administration but conducted a glowing
to the country, to and his personal efforts to
the Indian's noble efforts in that cause.

J. PRINSEP.

London,

the 1st Feb. 1844.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THroughout this Publication, the terms Quit-rent and Land-tax, are applied to express that annual acknowledgement paid by the occupiers of land, the aggregate of which forms what is called the Revenue of Bengal.

In England, the term Quit-rent is only applicable to the annual acknowledgement paid by a Copyholder to his Lord. A Freeholder is exempt from such claim. But both are liable to the Land-tax levied by Government.

The revenue, raised from the time of our acquisition of the Dewanne, until the accession of EARL now MARQUIS CORNWALLIS to the Supreme Government of India, was uniformly

A D V E R T I S E M E N T .

formerly termed Quit-rent : and all Landholders were considered as holding of the Sovereign power ; whether the parties paid Huzzoory, viz. immediately to the Treasury, or Muzgoory, through the intervention of a Rajah, Zemindar, or Farmer.

The question, who were the tenants in capite ? was seldom agitated abroad, and never decided.

During his Lordship's administration, this Revenue first assumed the denomination of Land-tax : and, by the adoption of the mo-currery plan, all who are admitted to pay this Land-tax, direct, in consequence become Freeholders.

But, as there still exists a doubt in the minds of many, both as to the right and the policy of depriving the lower classes of Land occupiers, the dependent Talcoodars and the fixed Ryots of this privilege, they are considered by GURREEB Doss as Freeholders also ; and the terms Quit-rent and Land-tax, indiscriminately applied to the tribute

or.

ADVERTISEMENT

for acknowledgement, admitted to be due from both.

The Ryots, here deemed Freeholders, are neither the vagrant cultivators described in Mr. HASTINGS' minute, nor the Coolies, Mooteyahs, or Servants who work for monthly wages: but a numerous and respectable class of the Natives, occupiers of the Soil from time immemorial: who, till this new system was adopted, have been ever considered as entitled to permanent possession of the Land on which they built, and to the fields they cultivated, for as long a time as they should continue to pay the established contribution to the State.

That they are still entitled to this privilege, and ought to have it formally promulgated and effectually secured to them, is the argument of this publication.

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The necessity of applying Indian terms and technical language, may seem to call for a
Glossary

*Le principe seroit, de respecter tellement le droit public
tout titre de propriété, même la plus mal acquise
au passé, en fut un repossession apaisée et paisible;
tous engagements, même les plus onéreux et forcés,
sont sacrés dans la société. Ainsi des Hommes
le par Roux P. 90.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

Glossary to this production; but as it will probably attract the attention of few Readers, who have not perused Mr. Rouse on the Landed Property of Bengal, the Writer begs reference to one which will be found annexed to that Dissertation.

Introduction

THE following is a list of the names of the persons who have been connected with the work of the Society since its formation in 1844.

It is hoped that this list will be of some service to the friends of the Society.

The names are arranged in alphabetical order.

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Madame Curie

LETTERS OF GURREEB DOSS.

No. 1.

The following Insertion, which appeared in the Morning Chronicle of the 1st of October, 1792, having given Occasion to this Correspondence, it is thought a necessary Introduction of the Subject.

Mr. SHORE's Appointment.

LORD CORNWALLIS and MR. SHORE have been represented in a morning print as extremely adverse to each other; and the appointment of the latter to the Government

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General

General of Bengal is supposed to prove, that the present administration are much dissatisfied with the conduct of the Noble Marquis : this is a very gross misrepresentation, and merits a public refutation. Mr. SHORE was the acting President of the Committee of Revenue in Calcutta, from its formation in February 1781, with a few months exception, until his departure from Bengal with Mr. HASTINGS, in February 1785. In 1786, the Directors appointed him a Member of the Supreme Council ; and he returned to Bengal in that year with Lord CORNWALLIS, with orders to be again placed at the head of the Committee of Revenue in Calcutta. In this situation, and as a Member of Government, he acted most cordially with Lord CORNWALLIS, though in one instance, which we will explain, he differed in opinion with his Lordship.

Mr. HASTINGS had represented to the Company in 1780, the very mischievous consequences of making annual settlements of the lands in Bengal ; but did not succeed in persuading the Directors to authorize engagements
for

for long periods, or for lives, the charter being nearly expired.

In April 1786, the Bench of Controul, who had then an old Bengal servant for their Secretary, Mr. BOUGHTON ROUSE, took this subject up, and they empowered Lord CORNWALLIS to form a ten years settlement, adding, that they intended to make this ten years settlement, a binding engagement *for ever*.

With every possible attention to the subject, it took three years to collect materials upon which to form this settlement, which was generally, though not universally, done in 1790, on a rent somewhat lower than the rent of former years.

Lord CORNWALLIS was a very strong advocate for a perpetual settlement being immediately declared, without waiting for further information; conceiving that the materials, collected before they had formed the decennial settlement, were fully sufficient;

Mr. SHORE, on the contrary, was for postponing the perpetual settlement to a more distant period, thereby taking the advantage of some years experience and reflection. — Much discussion took place, but without any heat or ill-humour; Lord CORNWALLIS strongly recommended to the Directors, the immediate adoption of his own plan, and lamented the difference between him and Mr. SHORE on this point, of whom he spoke in the highest terms. The Board of Controul have now coincided in opinion with Lord CORNWALLIS; and they have appointed Mr. SHORE to carry into execution the plan for fixing for ever the rents, that shall be paid for the lands in Bengal, thereby adhering to the determination which they had formed in 1786. Such we believe to be the exact state of the business; independent of this point, there has been no difference of opinion between Lord CORNWALLIS and Mr. SHORE; nor did this interrupt, for a moment, the harmony that subsisted between them.

To

To those who are acquainted with Bengal, it is well known, that there are scarcely two gentlemen in the service, who exactly agree, either as to the rights of Zemindars, the quantum of revenue which the country ought to pay, or as to the best period for which *the land should be leased*, for the mutual advantage of the natives and the Company.

No. 2. LETTER I.

Morning Chronicle, the 12th October, 1792.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

“ Till Government ascertain the number of villages in each
 “ Zemindary, they *continue* in ignorance: till they *limit* demand,
 “ property is nominal: till they arrange gunge duties, com-
 “ merce is insecure: till they annul the *extortion* of *mulcts* by
 “ Proprietors, every subject is unprotected.”

S I R,

You are upon the point of departure, for the third time, to Bengal, in order to govern,

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with

with despotic powers, fifteen millions,* at the smallest computation, of the natives of India; over the lowest class of whom, especially, from the evidence of your own words above recited†, there existed, when you last left the country, every species of oppression.

We have been lately told, through the channel of this paper, that you have consented to enforce the plan of a perpetual settlement of the public revenues with the Zemindars of Bengal, upon the footing recommended by your predecessor, and adopted, as we were positively told last session, by the Board of Controul: permit, then, your attention to be arrested for a moment, in examining this new system upon your own wise and incontrovertible principles. Your candour will not mistake the motives of this address. Your public conduct must now, more than ever, be intended to carry with it its own justification. You never can have been

* Vide Rouse p. 140.

† This appears to be a mistake, vide Letter 2, in which the error is acknowledged.

4 to the 10th of November 1861

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. in relation to the matter of the 1st inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. Smith

with despotic powers, fifteen millions,* at the smallest computation, of the natives of India ; over the lowest class of whom, especially, from the evidence of your own words above recited†, there existed, when you last left the country, every species of oppression.

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* Vide Rouse p. 140.

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4 to the 10th of January 1861

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. in relation to the matter of the
and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, &c.

* See the Argument preceding this Letter

In further corroboration, every ^{European Gent^l} person who has purchased pleasure Ground for Garden-houses as they are called, or Land for plantations, has in the first instance been called upon to produce written acknowledgements from the Rysots of every ^{different} ~~different~~ ^{Class} ~~Class~~ whom he found in possession, that they had received a full equivalent for voluntarily relinquished the Spot. On production of such certificates & one from the farmer or ^{land tax} ~~Land~~ that the Kazana or quitrent was fairly adjusted - possession was given to the European purchaser and a Ryotty pottah granted him, conveying the Land thus transferred in perpetuity for a fixed annual consideration.

been induced a second time to quit "the humbler blessings of the life you love," for perilous distinction and laborious pre-eminence, without meaning by so great a sacrifice to diffuse that general happiness and comfort of which you appear so sensible, to all under your authority and protection.

The writer of these observations, though a British born-subject, was for many years a ryot, an Izardar, and a Talluckdar of Bengal: a considerable property was embarked by him under each of these land-tenures; he naturally, therefore, endeavoured to discover the extent of security which each of them conveyed.

R/

You know perfectly well, that all the private houses of Europeans and others at Calcutta, and at Chyringa, a suburb out of the jurisdiction of the Court of Judicature, have been erected upon ground held under Pottahs, at fixed quit-rents, which are acknowledged to be absolute freehold property, ^xassignable without permission of the Company, who

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originally

originally were themselves only Zemindars of the district, holding under the Soubah of Bengal. When it became necessary, under a former government, to collect a sum of money for the establishment of a police, this was levied, in the English order of a parish-rate, not by calling for any additional quit-rent. The same form is used in the interior parts of the country, when Pottahs are granted to the native inhabitants, and the same rights are universally admitted to belong to them. A register of these titles exists, as well in Calcutta, as in every village throughout the provinces, though they are studiously kept back from the English collectors by the farmers.

The next in rank, after the ryots, are the Izardars, or renters of each village, whose collections are made by instalments, both from the field cultivators, and from those other renters, with whom a bundabust or annual agreement has been made, according to their respective stipulations. This rent is settled between the Izardar and ryot, in

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in open court or cutcherry, in the presence of such officers as Government, or the superior renter may place as cheques over the Izardar. The whole detail of the inferior collections is performed by the agency of this last character, as Lessee of the Talluckdar, or Zemindar; and in proportion to the extent of country held by either of them, more or fewer of these intermediate persons are employed. A Talluckdar resident, generally himself collects from each village, by means of overseers, and perhaps attends in person to the letting the lands, and receiving balances of former years. If he be absent, or the lands extensive, he farms out these rents in one or more lots to Izardars. The same rule also extends to Zemindarries in proportion to their magnitude, under the names of Dhee, Ghong, Mouza, Chuckla, Purgunnah, &c. but, in all this series, it seems to have been the constant practice, that the Zub-Izardar's agreement for contribution to the farmer, is founded upon the *quit-rents he is authorized to collect from the cultivators and occupiers of each spot of ground held under his lease: that of*

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the farmer to the next above him, and so in gradual progression to the Zemindar, &c. until it reach the Kalsa or public treasury: and the reason of it is this; that the revenues and profits of each depend upon the extent of land in occupation, *all of which is intended by this method to be accounted for to Government.* With great deference to higher authorities, this seems to have been the system of the East for time immemorial, and the principle upon which temporary leases only have been given to the great renters by the superior authority, both under the independent Nabobs, and since our acquisition of the Provinces; and which, moreover, will be the practice of the Zemindars hereafter, if admitted to an absolute property of the lands they hold.// It no where yet appears necessary, that Government should have abandoned this right to a progressive increase of Revenue, in proportion to improved culture, especially *prior to a minute investigation*, which it is admitted has not yet taken place; still less ought this measure to be adopted, before the rights of every individual claimant to
landed

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landed property (who must under any regulation continue in some measure * dependent upon, or under the influence of the Zemindar) has been clearly determined—nay more, each distinct privilege ought to be *recited in his grant*, constituting and clearly defining the extent of his authorities, meant to be exercised under this future hereditary title.

// If each village and the number of acres it contains, is § intended to be ascertained, which the present village-records *ought* to exhibit, surely, the same account might, if it does not, particularize the names of each tenant, with the actual rents he is bound to pay: nothing then would be easier, than for each Collector to obtain a correct duplicate of such registers, and abstracts of the divisions and subdivisions of his Province. — As soon as it shall be known, that such a checque exists in his possession, every native would find it in his power to appeal to it in the

// Par.

* See extract from Wright's law of Tenures in Eng. quoted by Rouse, p. 89.

§ Law, 79.—“It were endless and expensive to measure every village.”

support of his just privileges ; the investigation of which would, by degrees, correct all the frauds of all the subordinate officers of the Revenue, and thus destroy this one great source of oppression. If after proper notice, no titles should be considered valid which had not been registered, Government would by that time have obtained all the information to be wished for, without coercion or expence, as to the actual gross land-tax *paid in each district by the people* ; have acquired the power of relieving their burthens, where requisite ; and have known what proportion *the sum collected, bears to that paid into the Kalsa, or Exchequer.*

Mr. LAW states “ the farming-system to “ have been the ruin of Bengal.” Unless something like the above enquiry, shall have previously taken place, “ *the number of villages ascertained, demand of rent limited, the extortion of mulcts by proprietors annulled,* ” — all the mischiefs of this very system must continue ; — the Zemindars will farm their newly

(1879)

Report of the Board of Directors of the
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newly acquired freeholds to great renters, and they to others, all of whose undefined emoluments will be "extorted from the people," as heretofore.

Government need not be staggered at the time and labour this investigation will require, which is much less considerable than has been imagined: even the Zemindars themselves may be induced to accelerate its completion, *by making the measure an indispensable prelude to the restoration of their asserted titles to future permanent jurisdiction.* It was effected by the Company's Collector in the Calcutta Purgunnahs; and Mr. Franklin's Jumma bundy is appealed to with reverence to this day. The present Collectors, *when not ita* supported in earnest by their superiors, will feel themselves fully equal to the task; and *not ita* exult in becoming the instruments of so upright and humane a regulation. If now omitted, the neglect will be an indelible reproach upon the British name; and, as heretofore, implicate the character of every Collector, who shall hereafter be employed. And this is the more obviously necessary, since you cannot but know, that this investigation will be immediately
set

set on foot by every intelligent Zemindar, *for his own benefit*, the moment his permanent title shall receive the fiat of Government.

Why Government has remained so long in ignorance, as “ *not even to know the number* of villages which their provinces contain,*” you require no information.—The want of these lights has deprived it of the best and only effectual means of protecting the industrious poor against the harpies of greedy tax-gatherers. — not officers of Government, but the delegates of a delegated, and, of course, a dependent authority: whereas the establishment of landed property in the peasant or cultivator, Mr. Grant observes, “ *must unite the advantages of despotic Government*” (if it *must* be despotic) “ *with all the ease, freedom and security of an individual, in most republican states.*”

It has been more than suspected, that the rent collected from the inhabitants of our provinces, is too heavy a burthen upon the produce

* Law, p. 135.

produce of agriculture. It is not, that the government receives more than its share ; for, in that case, the farmers would have refused payment of the rents established for several years past, or have become bankrupts : It is, that an undue proportion is collected from the tillers of the soil ; to alleviate their distress, a Mokurrery, or fixed tent, should in the first instance be granted *to them* : this appears the only effectual method, and would completely answer the purpose, though established on the present rates ; while, instead of diminishing, it would augment the nett revenues of government.—By exacting a moderate quit-rent from the cultivator of the soil, government leaves him a strong inducement to improve and encrease the produce of it for his own advantage. It moreover, supports his immediate dependence upon the sovereign and his laws : whereas, by a Mokurrery, or fixed rent, with the Zemindars only, without a previous definition of their authorities, government not only abandons the principle upon which the revenues have been long established, of considering them in the light of receivers of the land-

land-tax, entitled solely to advantages in proportion to the *quantum* of tribute arising from occupied lands, " expressly obliged to state " an account for all additional cultivation," and, as your friend Mr. ROUSE has acknowledged, " liable at any period, *without* " reason assigned, to local valuation and fresh " assessment." ‡ It also abandons every right to increase of revenue from increased population, or additional industry; and to that of calling for contributions in time of war, or of local calamity in any other part of the country.*

It is admitted, that the Tallookdar is a freeholder, subject only to payment of the land-tax originally assessed upon his ground: the Ayema, or charity lands, are exempted from this acknowledgment: but the Ryot holding a Mokurrery Pottah under a Bramin or Mou-lavy, is strictly bound to pay him no more than a stipulated ~~rent~~. It is the land-tax only

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‡ Page 85.

* This latter clause is provided for in the caboollat, p. 224 of Laws Resources.

‡ This has not been quoted verbatim

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only for that particular spot, which has been granted for the support of religion, not the land. These religious endowments, the tenure held most sacred, when made by individuals, have never occasioned any diminution of the public revenue; they were taken out of the profits or poundage of the person alienating, out of his profits as a collector—not out of the revenues of the state. As the Bramin subsisted upon the quit-rents of his Ayema, so the Zemindar supported his household out of the allowance upon the collections allotted to his care. “*The Ryot and the Sovereign were the only real proprietors of the soil.*” No one argument which has been advanced in favour of the Zemindar’s claim to hereditary property in the lands, can be misapplied to the restoration of the Ryot’s * title, under a Pottah, to permanent possession: no other agreement should be considered valid. Were this rule uniformly established, the Ryot would readily contract upon equitable terms, to cultivate *an increased quantity*

or land tax

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* The proprietors in Calcutta are as much Ryots as those of the country, and would else be holding their possessions upon an arbitrary ground rent, which is not the case. See back p. 7.

of land, when he knew that all surplus product beyond his established rent, should remain to himself and family. At present, a man of this class of society has no idea of any property attaching to himself. He slaves for the benefit of others, listless and supine, without hope of improving his condition, or providing for age or infirmity. He labours, because he must either eat or starve : but, if he attempt to improve the value of his cultivation, by a change of produce, or better management, the native * Izardar instantly assesses him to the full amount of the surplus production.

This oppression can only be removed, by establishing one fixed rule for the rent of the Begah in every district. If taken at the medium assessment of ten years back, which the Paatwary book will exhibit, of so much for ploughed, and so much for pasture land, and every Ryot were allowed to take a Pottah for what he had the means of employing, the gross collections of all in hand would be ascertained ; and the waste or unoccupied spots might be granted to the Zemindar,

* Francis, p. 54.

Whatever produce be chosen to draw from it.

Western Point, located in New York

mindar, at an equitable fixed quit-rent, or be sold to those who would give the best price for them. This would be the direct method of improving the country, and of reviving industry in every part of it. Universal independence would give birth to universal energy and emulation. Talents and industry, unshackled by oppression, would endow the proprietors of them with a laudable ambition, and invest them with riches and distinction: the industrious Ryot might then have a glimpse of hope to possess some day or other the Havily of his indolent or spendthrift Chowdry; the Weaver to become Duloll; every man would enjoy the comforts he acquired, and be stimulated to acquisitions by the confidence of enjoying them unmolested for the future.

On the contrary, by granting a permanent tenure of the whole country to the Zemindars, a great and formidable barrier, as before observed, will be established between government and the people; a brazen shield to cover oppression, and to fortify abuses against local investigation; the people will, as heretofore, consider it a matter of

total indifference, whether they continue ruled by the British, or any other foreign power; none of the blessings of our constitution can they ever hear of, much less enjoy; the country will again fall into the hands of a voracious junto of the natives, from whom humanity calls upon you to rescue them; and our government of it consist merely in sucking the revenues, for support of expensive establishments and a constant drain of produce and manufacture: the Zemindars will continue to make good their rents, which are payable in large sums, no longer than while the country is protected from invasion, and withhold them at the first moment of danger or alarm: this class of men will be again raised to power and splendour, at the expence of the great mass of the people:

“ Government will continue *in ignorance of*
 “ *the number of villages in each zemindary:*
 “ the property of *this* class of natives be still
 “ nominal, because the demands of them are
 “ unlimited; and every subject be unprotected,
 “ because the extortionate mulcts
 “ by great proprietors of the land, which
 “ have uniformly existed to this day by conni-
 “ vance,

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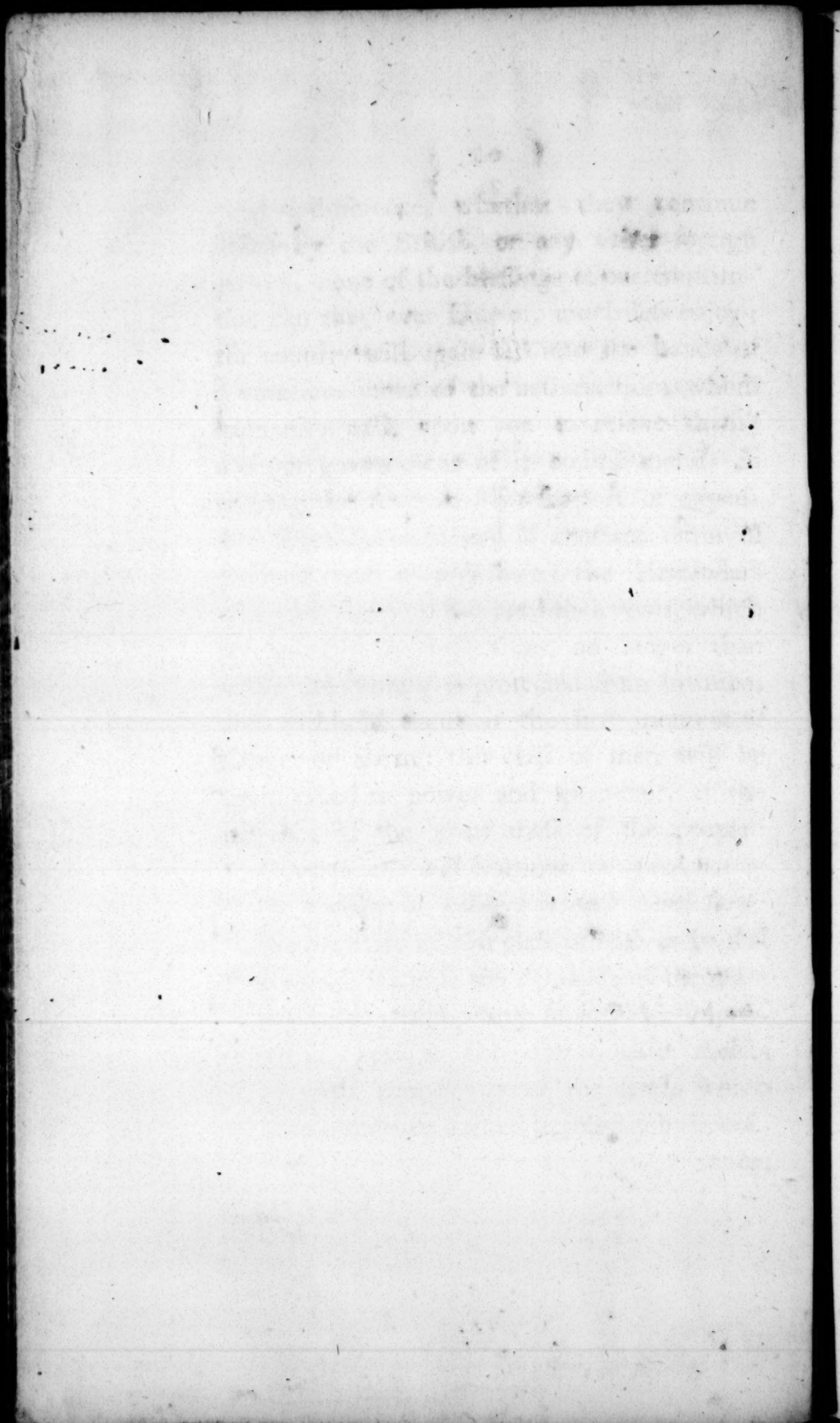
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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice" and "The Hon. Mr. Justice".

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



“ vance, will thereby receive the sanction of
 “ the British Legislature.”

“ In short, without this essential measure of
 “ fixing universally individual property
 “ throughout our India possessions, we shall
 “ retain no personal influence over the great
 “ body of the natives, and of course hold our
 “ dominion over them, not by opinion, the
 “ strongest of all fetters, but by the preca-
 “ rious tenure of military force.”

*I the inward
 common*

Such, Sir, is the melancholy prospect, which presents itself as the inevitable consequence of the measure you are said to have undertaken. The abruptness with which you have been called to take this important charge upon you, and the hurry of preparation for your intended departure, may have been the means of preventing those reflections occurring to yourself, which are here submitted to your serious consideration. If you have been surprised into the adoption of a plan you once disapproved: if the modesty of your merit has suffered itself to be so far over-

ruled, as to give up its own conviction, in a point of such magnitude ; you have still time to rectify the error. Government itself, when it hears you confirm these truths, so long notorious to all but themselves, though perhaps they may despise the information of an obscure individual, will feel grateful to you for setting them right ; but, if on the contrary, you are not yet absolutely pledged to support so corrupt a system, you will doubtless feel the necessity of contradicting a calumny, which not merely alarms your sincere friends for the dignity of your character, but fills every thinking mind with anxiety and apprehension.

In this address, the writer has endeavoured to preserve, both the respect due to your public station, and the esteem which your private virtues inspire—he hopes the importance of the subject will sufficiently justify his appeal to those virtues, from a real well-wisher to your fame, and to the happiness of the human species.

GURREEB DOSS.

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GURREEB DOSS.

Morning Chronicle, 13 October, 1792.

TO GURREEB DOSS.

GURREEB DOSS, in your paper of yesterday, begins with a quotation, which he attributes to Sir JOHN SHORE, whereas it is in Mr. LAW's Answer to that Gentleman's Letter.

GURREED DOSS acknowledges, that

“ Till Government ascertain the number of
“ villages, they continue in ignorance ; till
“ they limit demand, property is nominal ; till
“ they arrange Gunge Duties, commerce is
“ insecure ; till they annul the extortion of
“ mulcts by proprietors, every subject is un-
“ protected.”

If he will read the Mocurrery Plan, entitled,
Rising Resources of India, - he will find all this

effected in perpetuity—the Government have now adopted it.

When GURREEB Doss does not reason upon false premises, and quotes fairly, he will find arguments combated by arguments.

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...the Government have
now adopted...

When Government has decided upon
the principle, and given it effect,
and a... ..

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The following intemperate Letter would, on that account, and for its personality have been omitted; if it had not also contained a peremptory call for the proofs which are adduced in the next two of Gurreeb Doss, who trusts to the public Sentiments upon Lord Cornwallis's conduct, as the only Refutation necessary of that Part of it; and with regard to the Aspersions on the Civil Service, he must consider them as equally undeserving a Reply. Anglus has totally mistaken the purport of these Letters, which is literally as professed, a feeble attempt to improve the situation of the Natives of Bengal, without throwing out insinuations against present or former Administrations.

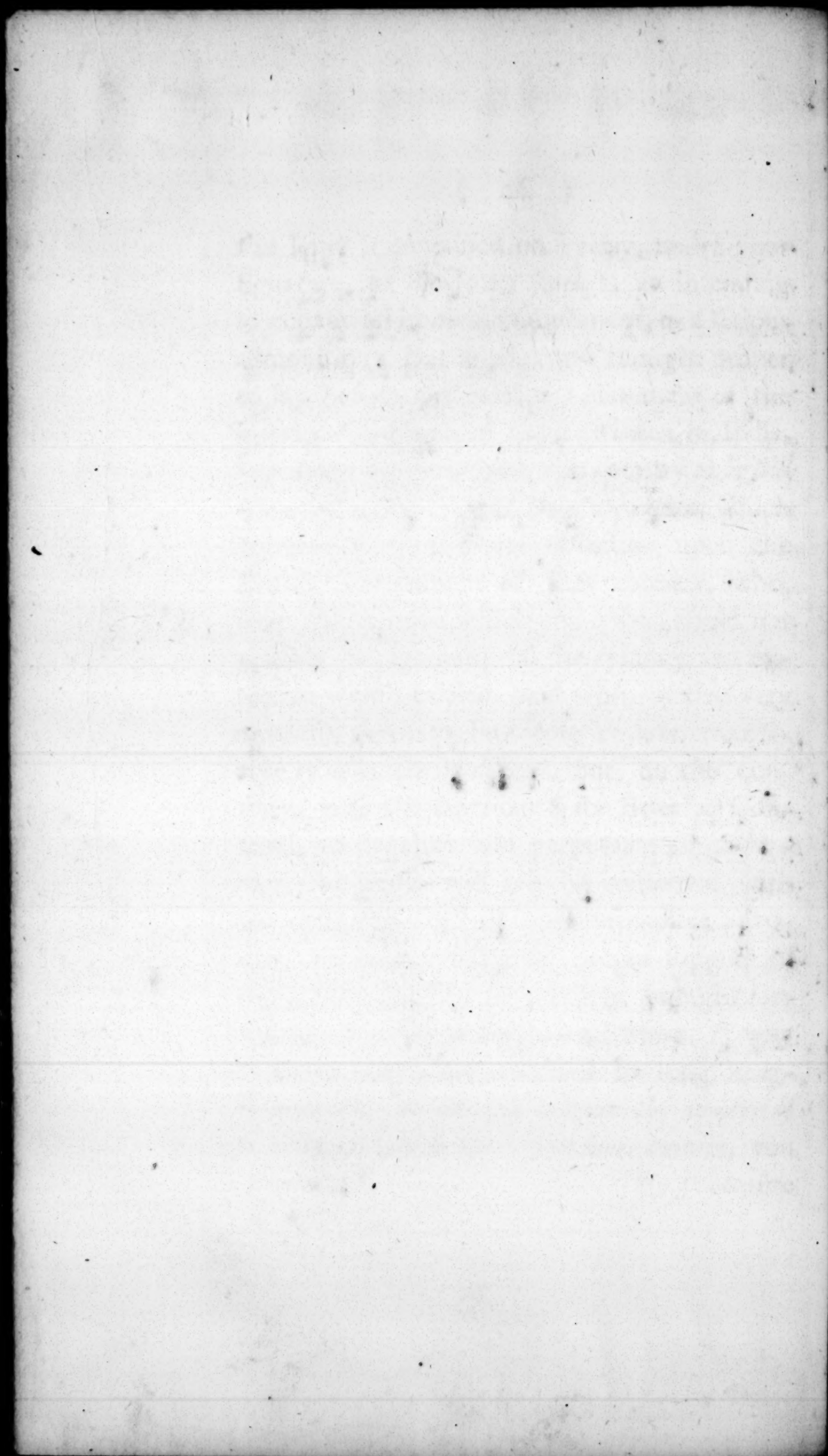
Morning Chronicle, 16 October, 1792.

TO GURREEB DOSS.

“ Till Government ascertain the number of villages in each
 “ zemindary, they continue in ignorance; till they limit de-
 “ mand, property is nominal; till they arrange gunge duties,
 “ commerce is insecure; till they annul the extortion of mulcts
 “ by Proprietors, every subject is unprotected.”

I am one among many readers of this paper
 who feel myself at a loss, whether to consider
 the

the letter it contained on Friday, under your signature, to Sir JOHN SHORE, as intending to convey an ironical compliment, or a serious admonition : But as you have thought proper to lay before the public a statement of the interior collections of our provinces in India, indicating the natives of that country *to be still labouring under the most cruel oppression*, which conveys the most severe reflection upon the British Government of that country, who, from the opinion which you quote, could not possibly be ignorant of the tyranny and extortion which existed, and who, at this very moment, seem to be *taking no pains whatsoever to alleviate its distress*, but, on the contrary, with the sanction of the Board of Control, to legalize and perpetuate all *its horrors*, the public will not be contented with the mere “ I say ” of an irresponsible advocate, without calling for proper support of those facts he has so publicly brought forward. You say to Sir JOHN SHORE, “ why “ Government has remained so long in ignorance, *as not even to know the number of “ villages which their provinces contain*, you “ require



“ require no information.” Sir JOHN SHORE, no longer present to attend to your call, if you are acquainted with those reasons, as we are led to believe both *you* and *he* are, it is now become your duty to declare them, or you implicate your modest, virtuous friend, in all the iniquity you so warmly reprobate. The records of the interior collections of revenue you state *to have been withheld from the British residents*. You assert, from Sir JOHN SHORE’S *own authority*, that even the *abstract of each district has not been correctly formed*! Is it possible! Can you expect to receive credit for such assertions, unsupported by *further* proofs? * Is it to be believed that the East-India Company have been thirty-five years in sovereign possession of Bengal, without having analyzed its whole system, and made itself master of all the details of public duty, and have remained in ignorance of the most minute sources of public revenue, after all the panegyrics which have been passed upon the industry and abilities of the Company’s

* Refer to p. 42, of Thoughts on the Expedience of permanent Leases.—Stockdale 1792.

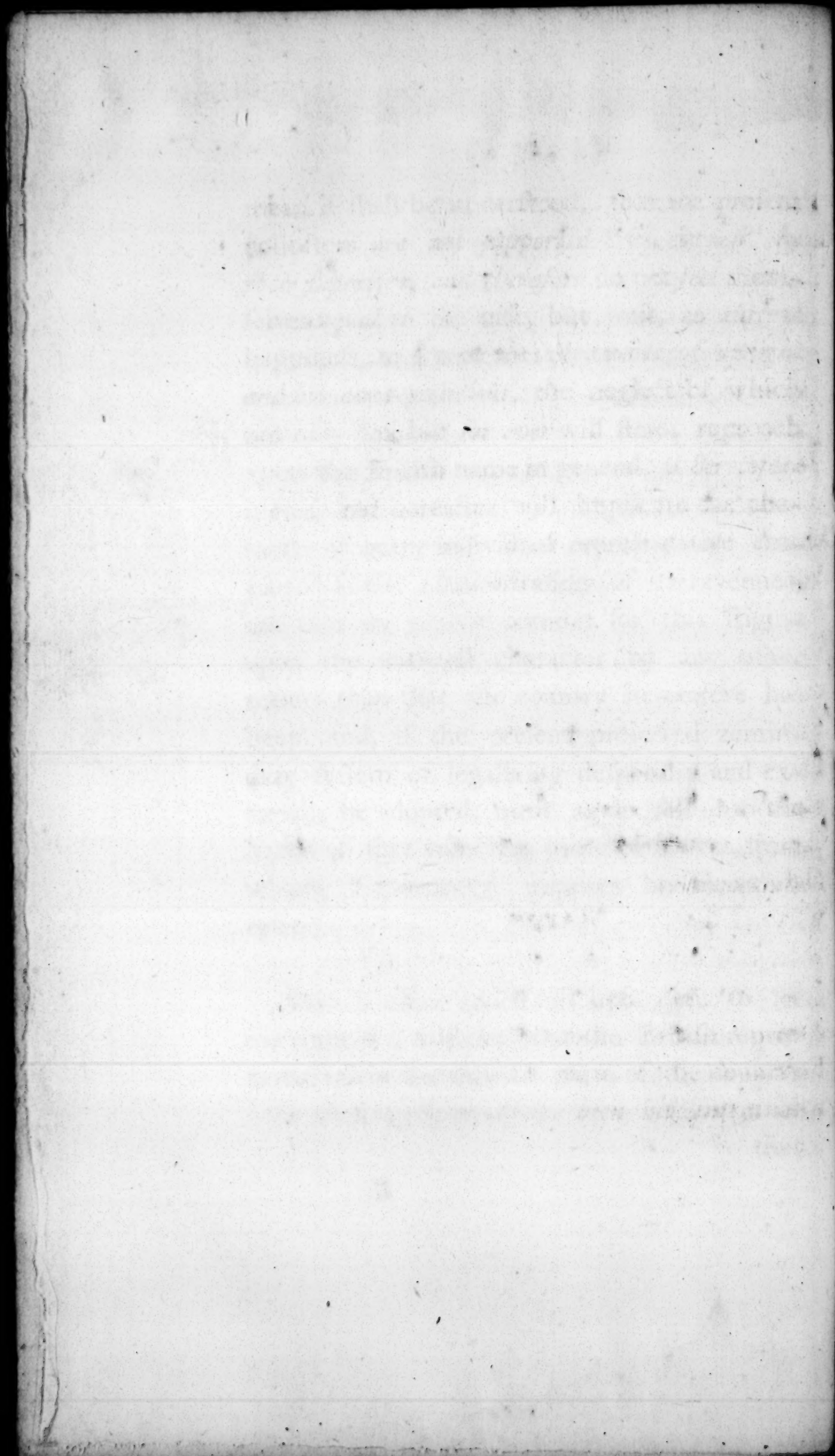
Company's servants, and their general knowledge of the language and customs of the country? Is it possible, that gentlemen of intelligence and education shall have passed their time for a series of years in the interior parts of the country, sequestered from all intercourse with Europeans, and apparently possessed of power and authority competent to every purpose of investigation; that these Gentlemen should so far have neglected their duty, as not to have made themselves acquainted with those very resources which they were expressly delegated to realize, and into which they must have been in the daily habit of acquiring insight every time they sat in the public Court or Cutcherry, to decide upon matters of right, or investigate the Ryot's complaints? Or, were these Gentlemen so *lost in indolence and pleasure* as never to bear complaints, or the Ryots so wholly abandoned to a marauding junto of natives, as to be obliged to suppress them through fear? You say also, that the present collectors, " *when supported in earnest by their superiors,* " will feel themselves *fully equal* to the task
 " of

Compt. of the Treasury, Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D. C.
June 10, 1908
To the Honorable Secretary of the Interior
Sir: In accordance with the provisions of the Act
approved March 3, 1879, and amended March 3, 1897,
and the Act approved March 3, 1907, relating to the
land of the United States, and the Act approved
March 3, 1909, relating to the land of the United States,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter of the 10th inst., and in reply to inform you
that the same has been forwarded to the proper
authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir,
very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John W. Weeks, Commissioner of the General Land Office.

“ of investigation, and *exult* in becoming the
 “ instruments of an *upright and humane regu-*
 “ *lation*, which if now omitted, the neglect
 “ will be an indelible reproach upon the
 “ British name, and, *as heretofore*, implicate
 “ the character of every collector who shall
 “ *hereafter* be employed ;” and, that without
 this previous investigation, “ by granting a
 “ permanent tenure of the whole country to
 “ the zemindars, a great and formidable bar-
 “ rier will be established between the Go-
 “ vernment and the people, a brazen shield
 “ to cover oppression, and to fortify abuses
 “ against local investigation : the people will,
 “ *as heretofore*, consider it a matter of total in-
 “ difference, whether they continue to be ruled
 “ by the British or any other foreign power ;
 “ none of the blessings of our Constitution
 “ can they ever hear of, much less enjoy :
 “ the country will *again* fall into the hands
 “ of a voracious junto of the natives, from
 “ whom humanity demands a rescue, and our
 “ government of it consist merely in sucking
 “ the revenues for support of expensive esta-
 “ blishments.” From hence I conclude, you
 mean

mean it shall be understood, that the present collectors *are not supported "in earnest" by their superiors, and therefore* do not feel themselves equal to the task, but wait, as a great happiness, to *become the instruments of upright and humane regulations*, the neglect of which not only *has*, but *for ever* will stamp reproach upon the British name in general, as *heretofore* it has, and hereafter will implicate the character of every individual representative employed in the administration of its revenues, and that we cannot account for this stigma upon the national character by any other means than that the country heretofore has been, and, if the present projected zemindary system of legalizing despotism and extortion be adopted, must again fall into the hands of that voracious junto of natives, from which "humanity" requires an *immediate* rescue.

Now I infer, and I call upon you to set me right if I mistake, that the British representatives in the interior parts of the country *have been negligent—have been indolent* ; not that



that they were *inclined* so to be, but that, had they done their duty in repressing and punishing oppression, in exercising acts of humanity and justice ; in opposing this voracious junto of natives, they would not have been *seriously* supported by their superiors, and that their gross inattention to the complaints of the people, their indolence, neglect, and connivance at the corrupt system you attempt to expose, was nothing more or less than a tribute of complacency customarily expected as the gratuitous return to their superiors for the stations they respectively held, or the dread of losing the humble bread they derived from their several appointments. GURREEB Doss, you more than astonish me ! How can these things be ? Have we not had this country ruled by able and incorrupt men, such as HASTINGS, CLAVERING, BARWELL, FRANCIS, MACPHERSON, and CORNWALLIS, and, now, is not your friend, Sir JOHN SHORE, about to assume this tremendous charge, in order that the *virtues of Cornwallis may rest from their labours*, each with a princely stipend, expressly calculated to

to fortify them against temptation, and notwithstanding *we* continue in ignorance of the actual value of our resources, and unhappy India is still groaning under a regular system of corruption, fraud, and imposition? Shall these ideas gain credit, while blended with the dignity of such characters, as have been, and still are entrusted with these possessions? GURREEB DOSS, I once had a son in the East, and I should feel a participation of the odium, which your letter to Sir JOHN SHORE has indiscriminately thrown on the whole service, did I not see the names before mentioned, with whom all responsibility rested, but whose integrity and long services should, I hope will, prove a protecting shield more formidable than your bold assertions. Shall you tell us too, in the words you reverberate to Sir JOHN SHORE, that we do not yet know the *number of villages in our provinces*;—that *we have not limited the demand upon individuals*; that *we have not discountenanced the extortion of mulcts*, and that, consequently, *every subject is unprotected*, and with the very authority of that record in your hand, appeal to Sir JOHN SHORE

SHORE for the truth thereof, in the very face of a great and important trust conferred upon him, as the reward of virtue and integrity, and on all sides supported by an investiture of the most arbitrary and unconstitutional powers, at which every friend of mankind must blush with shame, and this too declaredly with a view to render that *trust effectual*, and the whole consolidated for the special purpose of perpetuating a system the most despotic, the most corrupt, the most flagitious, and the most inimical to the cause of humanity!!!

GURREEB DOSS,—these are paradoxes that demand explanation, and the public call is upon you. If you have any discoveries to make, to convince the people of this country that, here, they have been living under a grinding system of taxation, while in India those surplus resources, which ought to have relieved them, and repaid their expence of conquest, have been wilfully misappropriated, and diverted from the general interest of England to the support of a wicked system

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of Parliamentary controul, or baneful *influence* of Treasury management, you may rely upon their support and protection, and your country's applause. Generosity is the Englishman's characteristic, and virtue the foundation of the British empire; in the rigid support of the one, *an individual, however obscure*, will be sure to meet the certain reward of the other.

ANGLUS.

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L E T T E R II.

Morning Chronicle, October 18th, 1792.

T O A S I A T I C U S.

GURREEB Doss will now endeavour to quote correctly.

Mr. LAW's rising Resources of India, Page 24, of the Introduction.—“ In vain
“ have the greatest statesmen elucidated exist-
“ ing evils—in vain does the terminating
“ charter of the Company afford a favourable
“ opportunity—in vain has this dignified
“ Government visited India—in vain has a
“ general Peace concurred for deliberative
“ leisure, if a settlement is to be formed,

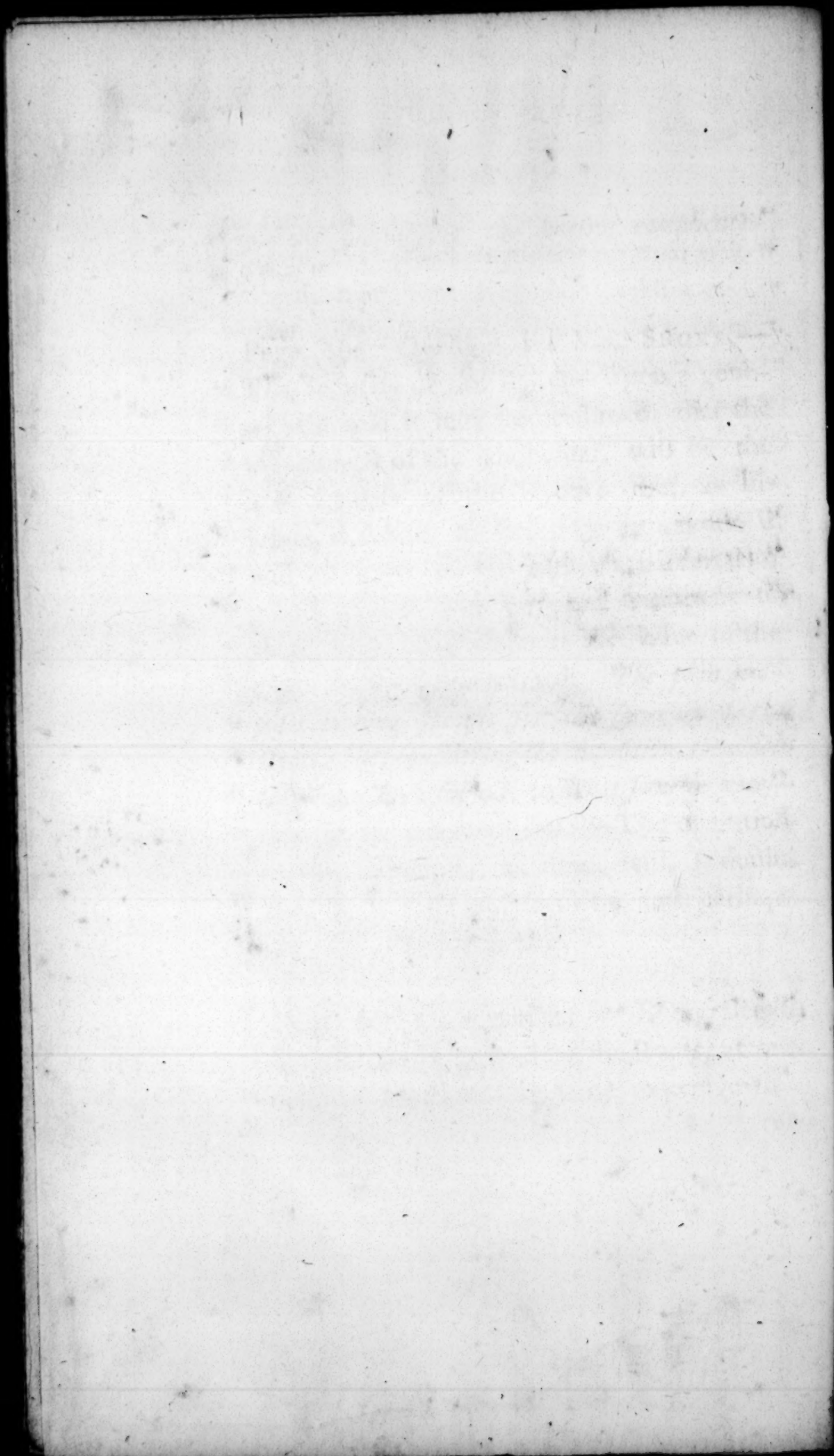
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“ without

“ without simplifying the present complicated system.”

Page 99. Question by Mr. SHORE.—
“ The Security of the Ryots—Upon a general principle it may be presumed, that the self-interest of the landholder, will be the best security of the Ryots: that, as his estate is subject to forfeiture for arrears, it will of course be his immediate interest to guard against this by good treatment to those, from whose labours the value of the estate must be determined. The plan proposes nothing specific for the security of the Ryots: but, considering the imposition, to which they have been subject, will not some be necessary in the commencement?—The operation of this principle, in time, will, I doubt not, be a sufficient security, and perhaps the plan relies upon this.”

Ibid. Mr. LAW replies.—*“ Every Begah of land cannot be held by the Ryots, at one medium standard.—In some extensive sterile
 “ rile*



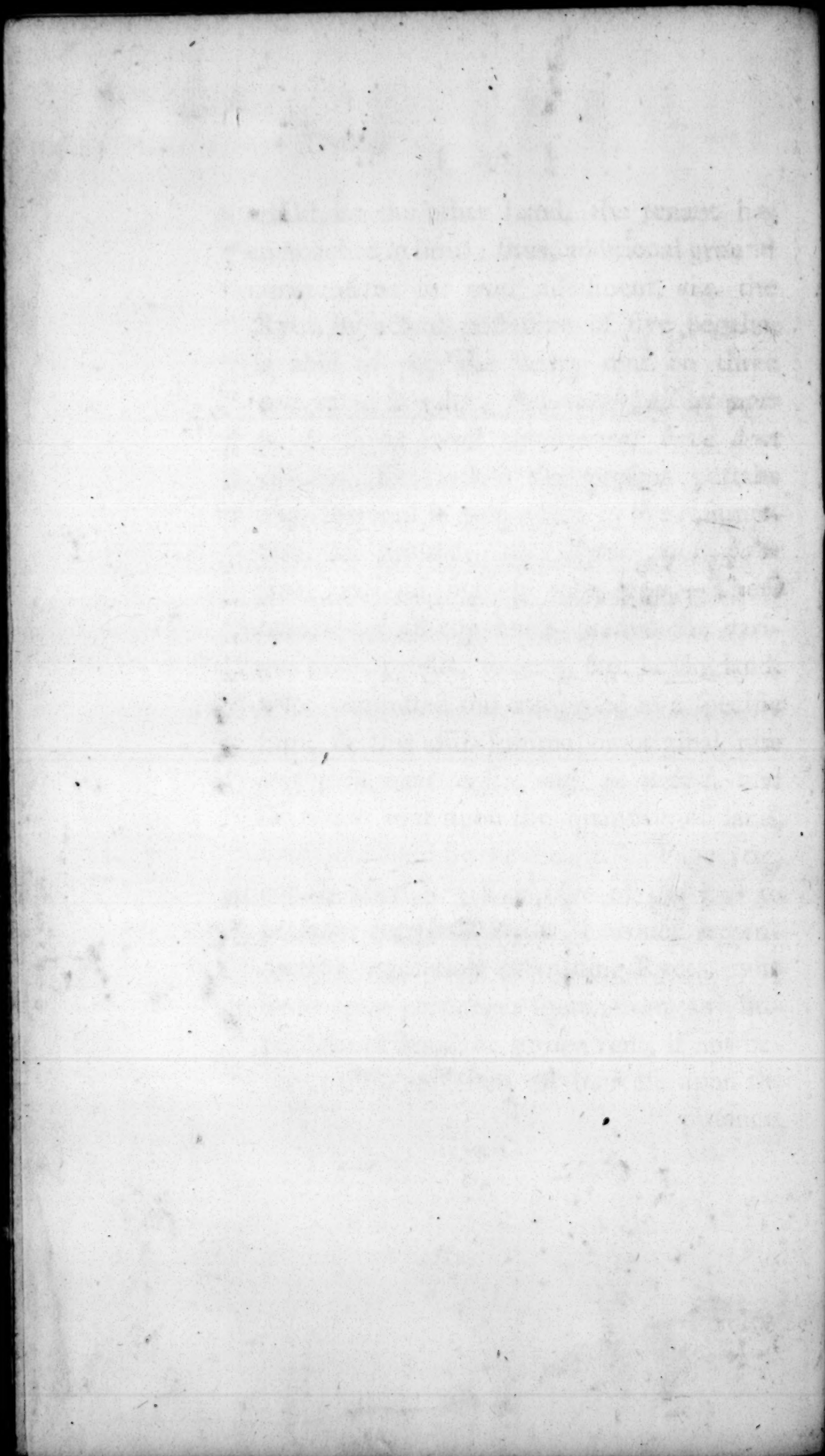
“rile spots, land is of little worth, and in
 “rich parts almost invaluable. The mocur-
 “rery village, therefore, may be deemed an
 “*average assessment of an extent of soil*, which
 “the proprietor must allot in the best mode
 “for himself.”

Page 100. Mr. SHORE.—“But the ques-
 “tion is in another sense material—are the
 “rents of the Ryots so determinate and known,
 “as to enable the officers of government to
 “decide upon their complaints easily and ex-
 “peditiously?”

“By what specific rule is this certainty
 “ascertained? are any additional rules ne-
 “cessary?”

Page 101. Mr. LAW (after a quotation
 from Blackstone) “I understand, that origi-
 “nally in Bengal, there were *some fixed assess-*
 “*ments on certain Begahs*, or an attempt at
 “an average rate on all cultivation. The
 “*Zemindars have exceeded that by various cesses*;

“ whilst, on the other hand, the tenant has
 “ encroached in limit ; thus, additional ground
 “ compensated for over assessment, viz. the
 “ Ryot, by actual possession of five begahs,
 “ is able to pay the heavy rent on three
 “ computed Begahs ; *fortunately, all attempts*
 “ *to obtain an exact measurement have been*
 “ *defeated* ; for, unless the present pottahs
 “ were lowered in proportion to the resump-
 “ tion of ground, *the Ryots must have*
 “ *sunk, and all suffered with them*.—These
 “ tenures are all copyholds ; and as the vari-
 “ ous fines, profits, sources, &c. in England,
 “ were computed and comprised in a specific
 “ sum, so this affil-Jumma, or original rate
 “ *and subsequent cesses, may be united, and*
 “ form one rent upon the quantity of land,
 “ *invariably held by the tenant.*” Page 104,
 in continuation.) “ Exclusive of the law to
 “ preserve copyhold Ryots, I would recom-
 “ mend a regulation exempting Ryots, who
 “ lived upon particular spots, from any im-
 “ position of house or garden rent, if not be-
 “ fore paid ; and from all increase upon the
 “ pittance,



“ pittance, which may have been taken here-
 “ tofore—for observations respecting Ryot’s
 “ engagements, vide my letter in Appen-
 “ dix I.” *

“ It were an endless and superfluous la-
 “ bour, to attempt ascertaining the rights of
 “ every under Ryot in the numerous pergun-
 “ nahs, and were after all liable to error. If
 “ any under-tenants hold by prescriptive
 “ title, the several courts must secure them
 “ therein, if invaded ; the interest, however,
 “ of Mocurrydars, will *generally induce them*
 “ to conciliate by donation, *rather than alie-*
 “ *nate by extortion* ; perhaps it were a proper
 “ law to prohibit under-leases, for less than
 “ five, or seven, or ten years.”

In Page 96. Mr. Law. “ The Awdalluts
 “ will prevent oppreßion ; and as rack-rent-
 “ ing *can only* drive the Ryots to a neighbour-

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“ ing

* This Letter no where appears.

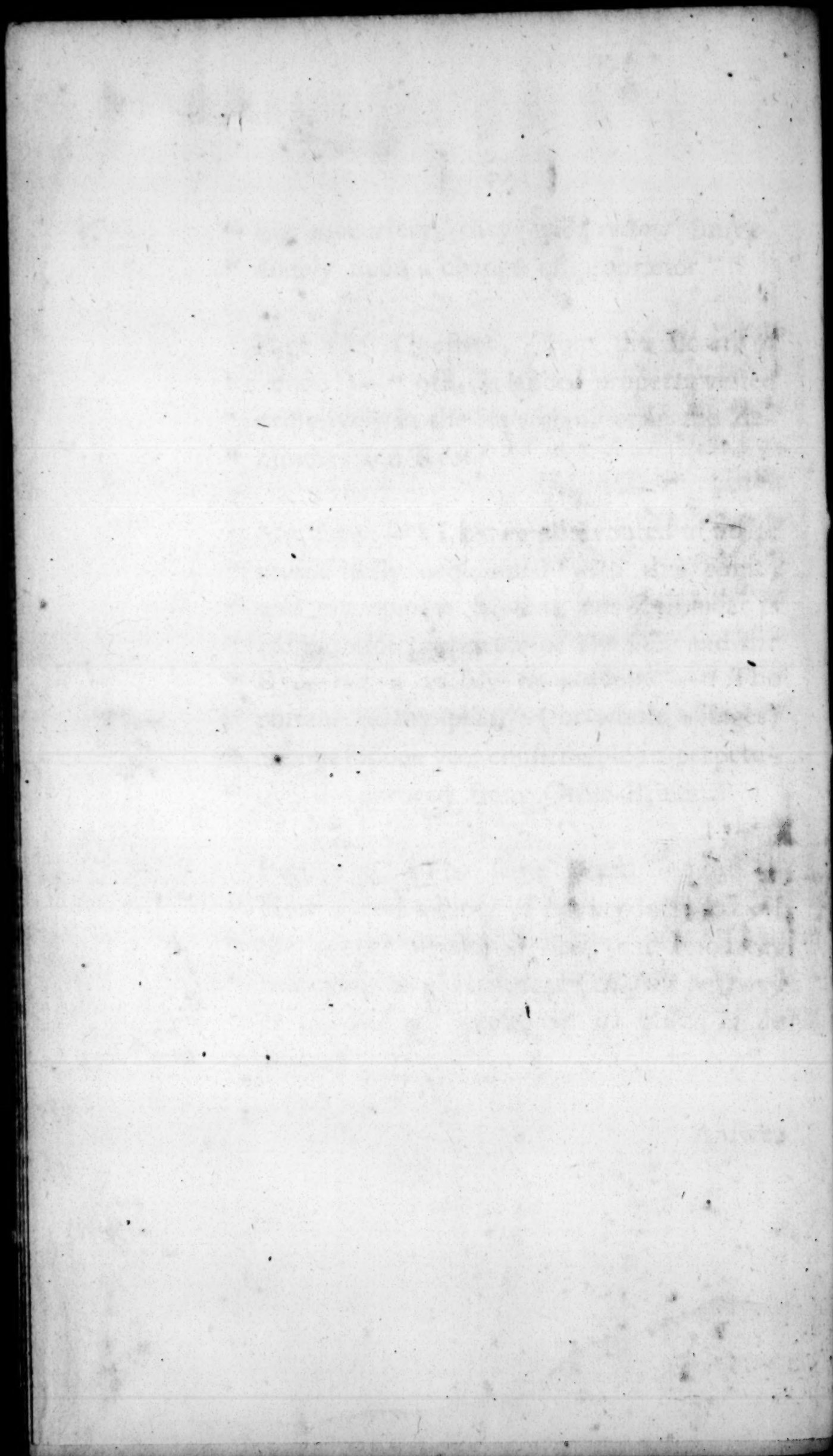
“ ing moccerry, they will *return* imme-
 “ diately upon a change of proprietor.”

Page 132. Question, (from the Board of Revenue!)—“ 9th, is landed property vested
 “ exclusively in the Sovereign, or in the Ze-
 “ mindars and Ryots?”

Mr. Law.—“ I have endeavoured to make
 “ myself fully acquainted with this point;
 “ and my opinion is, that the Zemindar is
 “ indisputable proprietor of the soil, and the
 “ Ryot but a vassal, or peasant.”—“ The
 “ pottahs of my plan,” (for whole villages)
 “ are but for one year confirmable in perpetu-
 “ ity, if approved from Great-Britain.”

Page 134. The same Board inquire.—
 “ How are we assured of having included all
 “ the proper territorial share and resources
 “ belonging to government? *Before property*
 “ *be disposed of, ought not its value to be*
 “ *known?*”

Answer

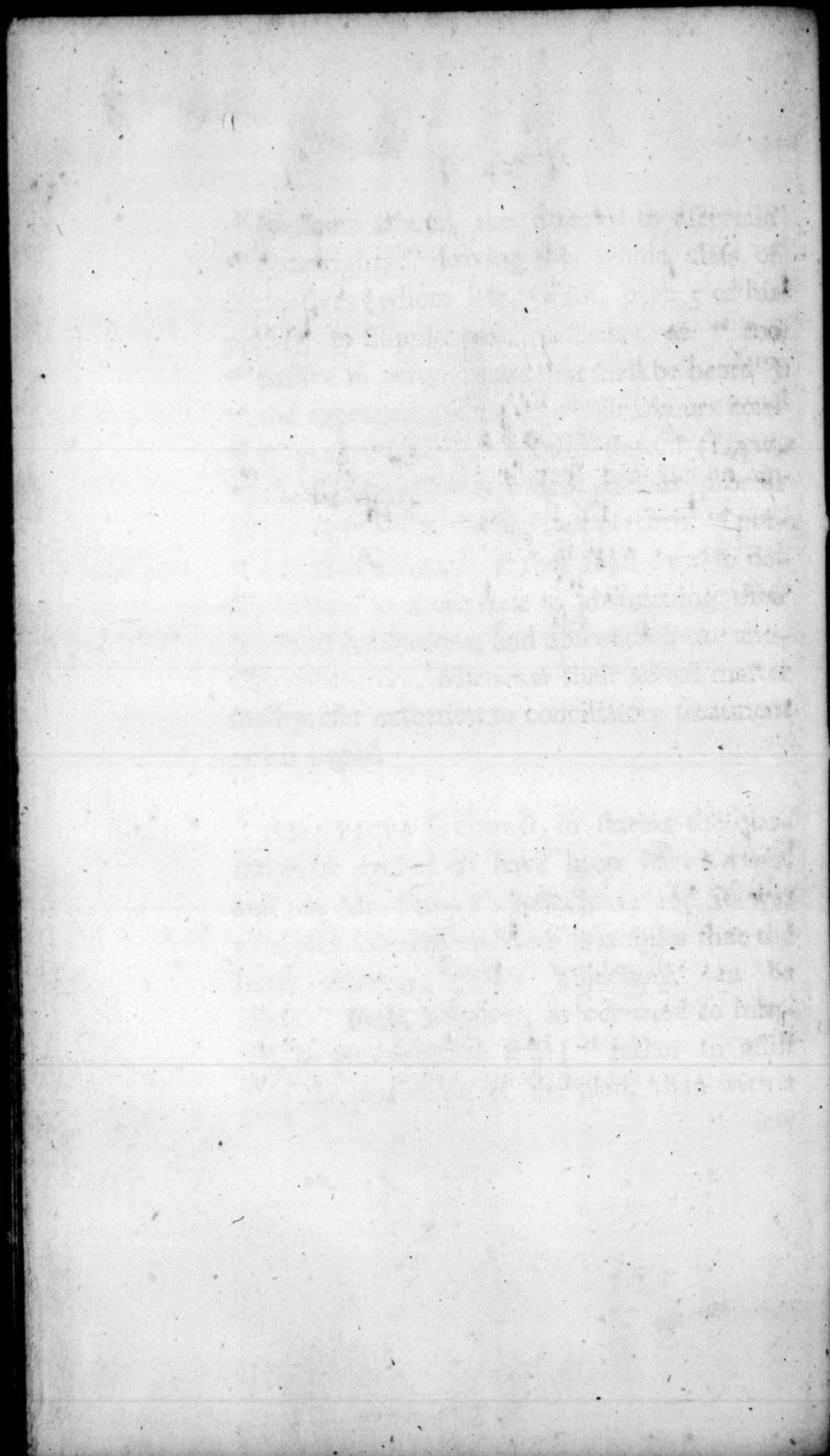


Answer by Mr. Law.—“ The extent of
 “ this large territory (Narhut Samoy,) ren-
 “ ders an accurate knowledge of the value of
 “ the land difficult, and the idea of its at-
 “ tempt must postpone every system, for to-
 “ morrow it is different from to-day—to me
 “ it appears sufficient, that a purgunnah paid
 “ less under a farmer, and was, notwithstand-
 “ ing, in decline *from the rapacity of limited*
 “ *interest in it.* If any villages are omitted,
 “ government will benefit by subsequent an-
 “ nexation.—*The allotment once formed, pre-*
 “ *cludes all alteration, future influence, &c.”*

The above extracts comprehend most, if not all, of the material explanations given by Mr. Law, respecting the Ryots of Bengal, and the protection intended them by the mocrury plan *adopted by Government*, which shew how far Mr. SHORE's humane inquiry has been satisfactorily answered. It “ proposes
 “ nothing specific for the security of the
 “ Ryots,” but abandons, “ as an endless su-
 “ perfluous

“ perfluous labour, the attempt to ascertain
 “ their rights:” leaving this whole class of
 the natives (whom Mr. Grant, page 5 of his
 preface to Supplement, describes as “ too
 “ passive to utter a groan that shall be heard”)
 “ the aggregate profits of whose labours con-
 “ stitute the wealth of the state,” (LAW,
 222), to the expensive and ruinous process
 of the Awdalluts, for defence of their “ pre-
 “ scriptive claims;” if they shall dare to de-
 fend them, in preference to abandoning their
 land and habitations, and absconding to ano-
 ther moccerry, whenever their actual master
 shall prefer extortion to conciliatory treatment
 of his *vassal*.

ASIATICUS is correct, in stating the quo-
 tation he recites to have been Mr. LAW's,
 and not Mr. SHORE's reflection; and it was
 to a plan founded on those principles that the
 latter observes, “ few objections can be
 made;” such, however, as occurred to him-
 self, he proceeded to state, “ rather to assist
 “ in the perfection of the plan, than with a
 “ view

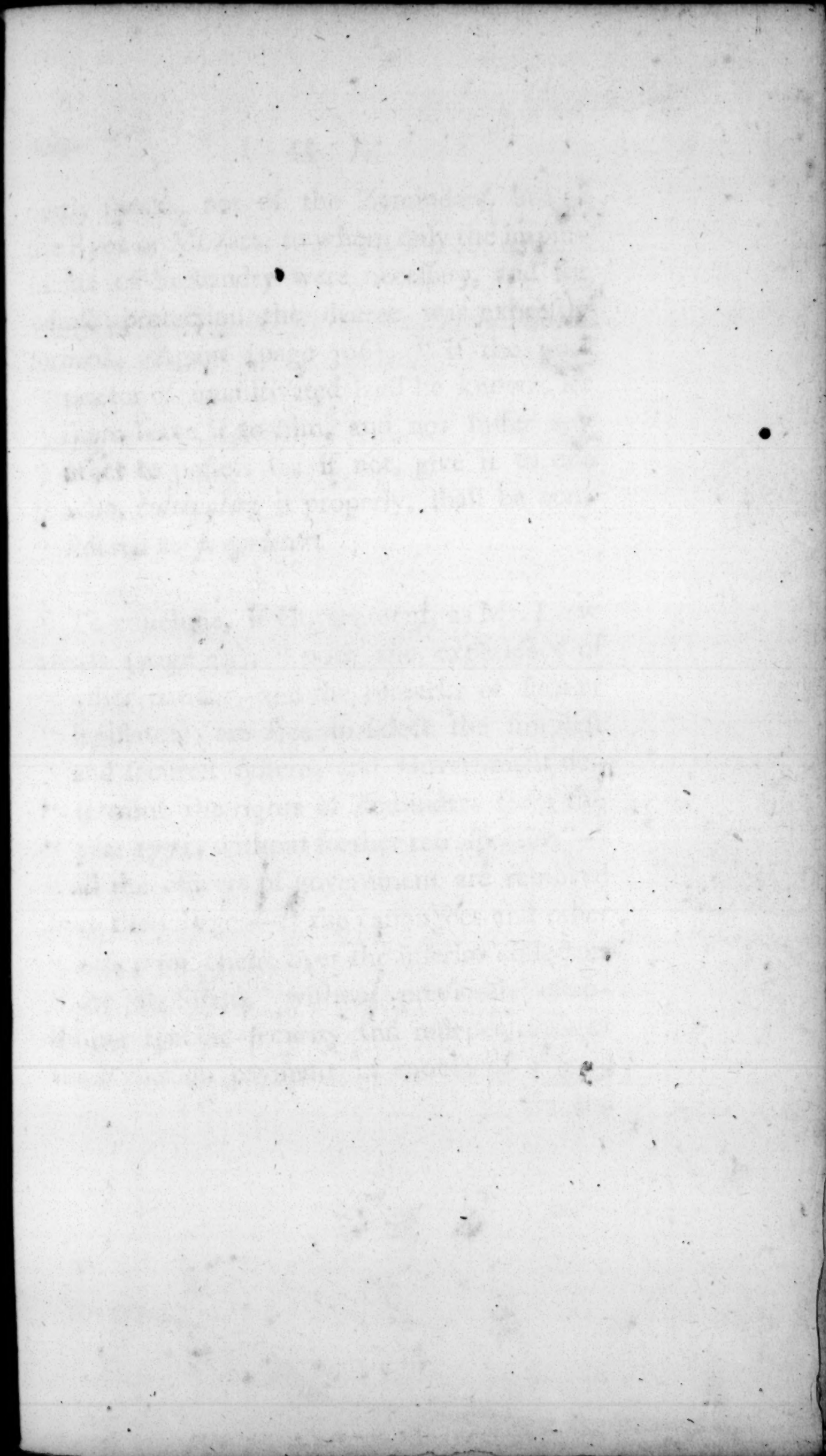


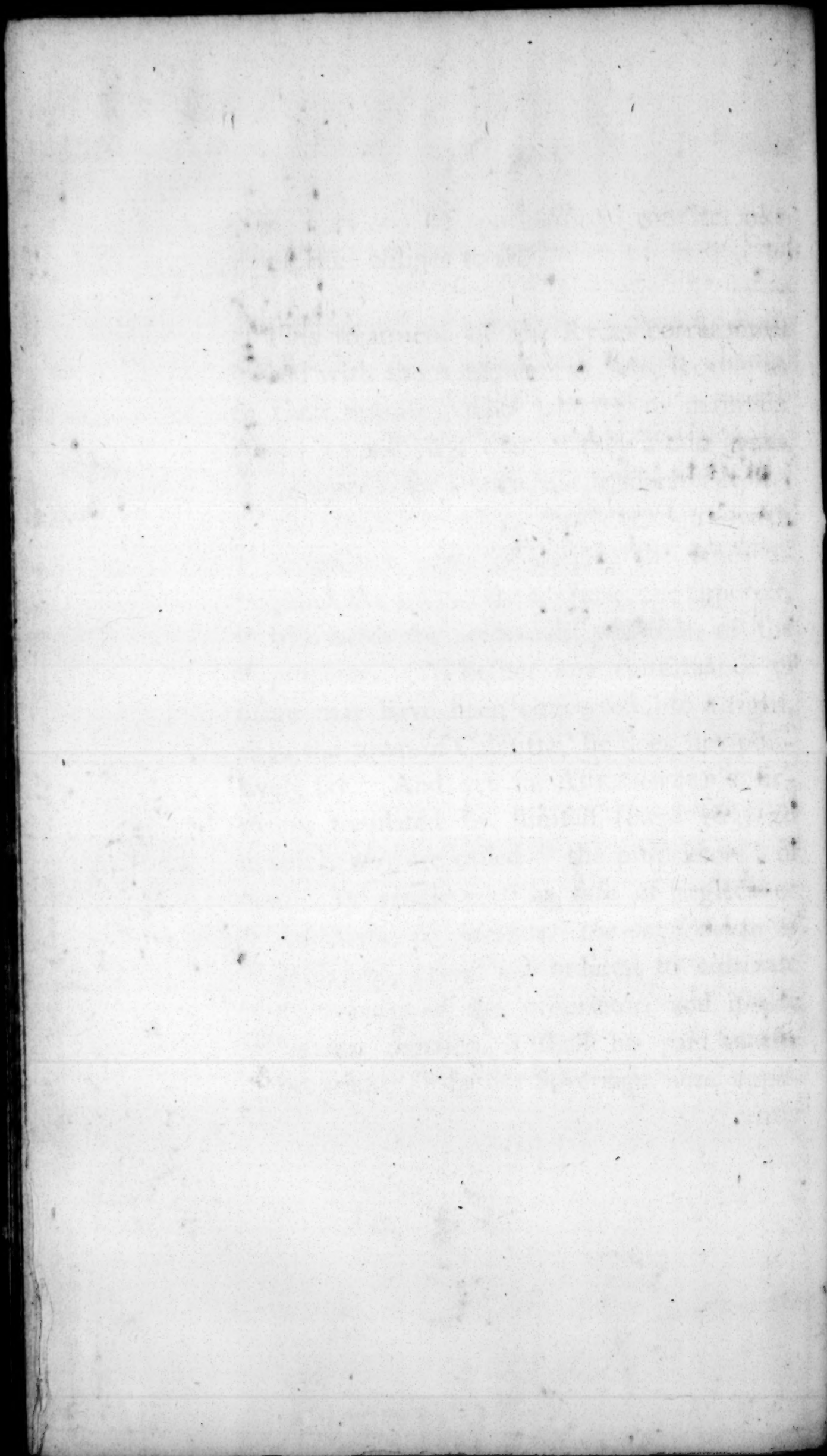
“ view to supercede it.” In the same view has Gurreeb Doss offered his opinion upon the same subject: which continues still to be; that without going through with the investigation, the object of the plan and of all reasoners upon it—*the happiness of the natives in general*—can never be secure: without determining all the specific rights of the lowest class of them, the system must continue imperfect, and expose them to every species of that oppression, which they are admitted to labour under at this day: that the fabric of government must require perpetual prop and reparation, if not to be taken again to pieces and rebuilt.

The plan, at least the abstract of it, recited by Mr. SHORE, professes only to descend to villages which are to be disposed of (p. 85). “ according to the Zemindar’s jumma (subject to revision by the Collector) who hitherto has always (120) “ over-burthened the inferior proprietors to spare himself, and make “ the Riots shelter themselves in his portion, “ with

with a view of purchasing the talooks when ruin obliges to sell."

This treatment of the Ryots corresponds indeed with the sentiments of Mr. ROUSE as to their tenures, who labours to maintain (pages 73 and 76), that "they are in general tenants for a term, not holders *in capite*, " nor tenants at all to the Sovereign—with " no positive right of keeping the lands against the will of their immediate superior, " who holds the permanent possession of the " property." Whether any continuance of usage may have been converted into a right, as in the town of Calcutta, he does not positively say. And yet in AURENGZEB's firman, translated by himself (page 303, 2d article), *they* are called "the proprietors" of land. In article 3, "in case of neglect or " desertion, or *want of the implements of* " *husbandry*, others are ordered to cultivate " on account of the proprietor, and if any " balance remains, it shall be paid to the " proprietor ;" for the Sovereign here apparently





rently speaks, not of the Zemindars, but of the Ryot or Mozara, to whom only the implements of husbandry were necessary, and for whose protection the decree was expressly formed. Again (page 306), "If the proprietor of uncultivated land be known, let them leave it to him, and not suffer any other to possess it: if not, give it to one who, *cultivating* it properly, shall be considered as *proprietor*."

To conclude, if Government, as Mr. LAW asserts (page 39), "with the experience of other nations, and the remarks of former legislators, are free to select the simplest and securest system, and Government determine the rights of Zemindars from the year 1771, without further retrospection"—if all the officers of government are removed from the villages—"the canongoes and other offices of check over the inferior collectors are abolished," without previously establishing specific security and independance of the Ryots on payment in money of a fixed
and

and perpetual quit-rent, the Zemindar, perhaps, may be exonerated from oppression by his mocurrery pottah, but the labourer, husbandman, and manufacturer, will be more than ever exposed to it.

15th October, 1793.

GURREEB DOSS.

No. 1.

Morning Chronicle, October 22, 1854.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor of the Morning Chronicle has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th inst. and to inform you that it has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Yours faithfully,
The Editor.

Printed and Published by J. W. Smith, at the Office of the Morning Chronicle, No. 1, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

No. 6.

Morning Chronicle, October 23, 1792.

TO GURREEB DOSS.

The extensive provinces of Benares, Bahar, and Bengal, being settled upon my plan *for ever*, it would be a source of unhappiness to me if I had reason to conclude with you, that
“ *the labourers, husbandmen, and manufactu-*
“ *rers, were more than ever exposed to op-*
“ *pression.*”

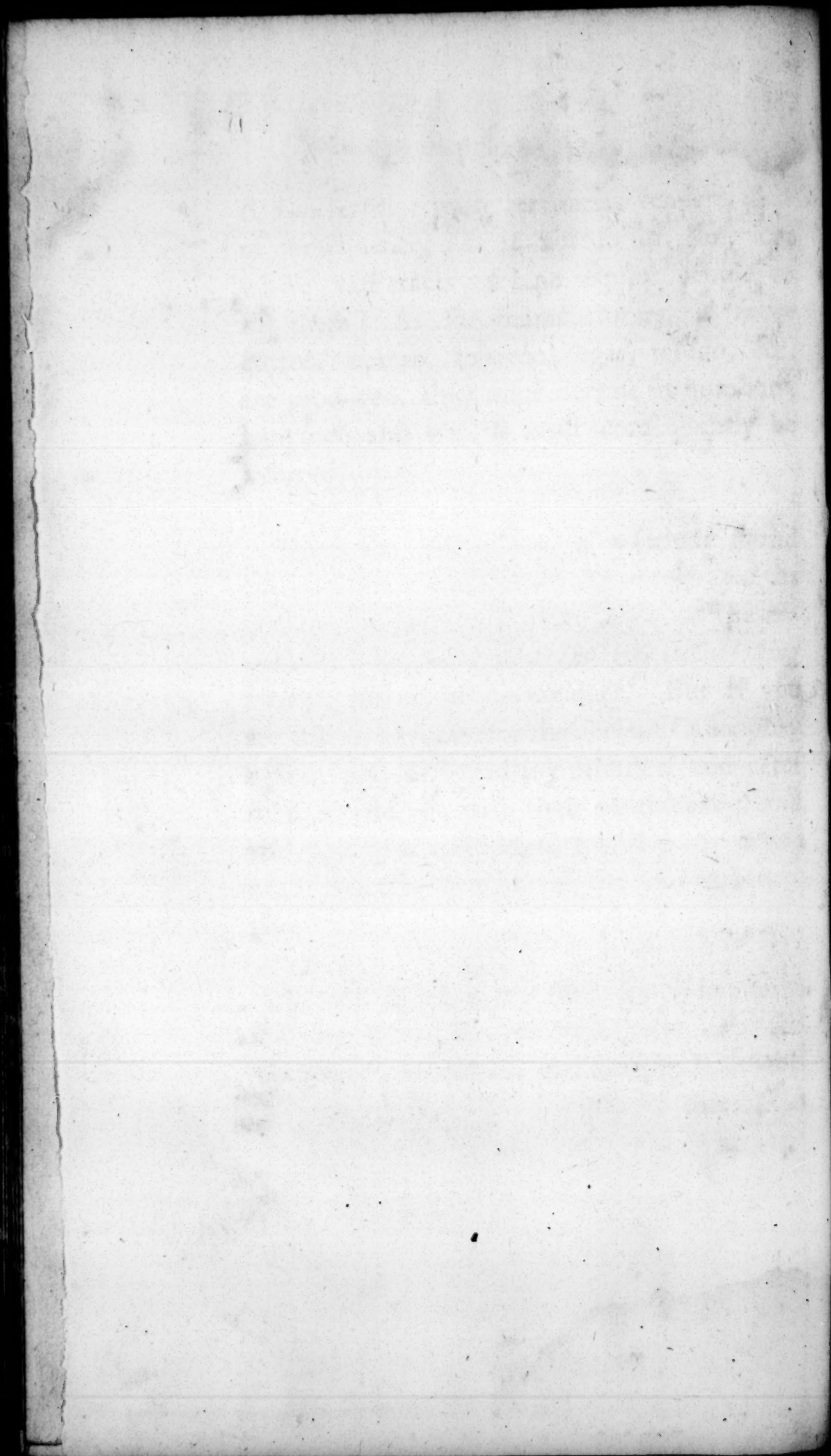
The fact is, that the spirit of industry is so excited, and the demand for workmen so increased, that the *cultivators* insist upon higher wages and better terms than formerly. Every proprietor is collecting husbandmen from the hills to improve his low lands. A disposi-

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tion to fertilize waste territories renders man of consequence. Is it not so in America, where vast tracts of land require people to till them? As for manufacturers, if more cotton, opium, tobacco, sugar, indigo, &c. are produced, they must increase in numbers, happiness and wealth must consequently be inferred.

Upon the old system, if a farmer found the cultivation diminished, he accelerated its decline by levying heavier taxes on the remainder; his *immediate profit*, and not a *lasting interest*, influenced his conduct. But if you are still an advocate for the ancient Canongoey offices, pray first read my minutes, and after that, should you wish their continuance, and will sign your real name, I will fairly argue with you the benefits of the old and new plan.

In my opinion, we shall see inhabitants flocking from the remotest parts into the Company's territories, and even without this extraneous



extraneous addition, how soon will population be doubled in a fertile country, and under a benign climate, where the natives become parents at the age of twelve years.

Famine can alone check the prosperity of our Asiatic possessions, and even that is averted, I hope, by the annihilation of the farming system, which prevented granaries, &c." *

At present, the French Revolution occupies the attention of all Europe, but the day is not far distant, when,

1st, The fixing a land-tax in perpetuity ;

E 2dly, The

* See Resources, page 66, "from whence are future armaments to be supplied, unless by the riches of native subjects?" Should a drought happen, where are the stores of grain for subsistence? neither will sheds be raised to shelter cattle, or barns built to preserve corn whilst possession is precarious. Mussulmen Sovereigns erected immense domes to contain the dead remains of pride, whereas Mr. Hastings erected them to preserve the future existence of the poor."

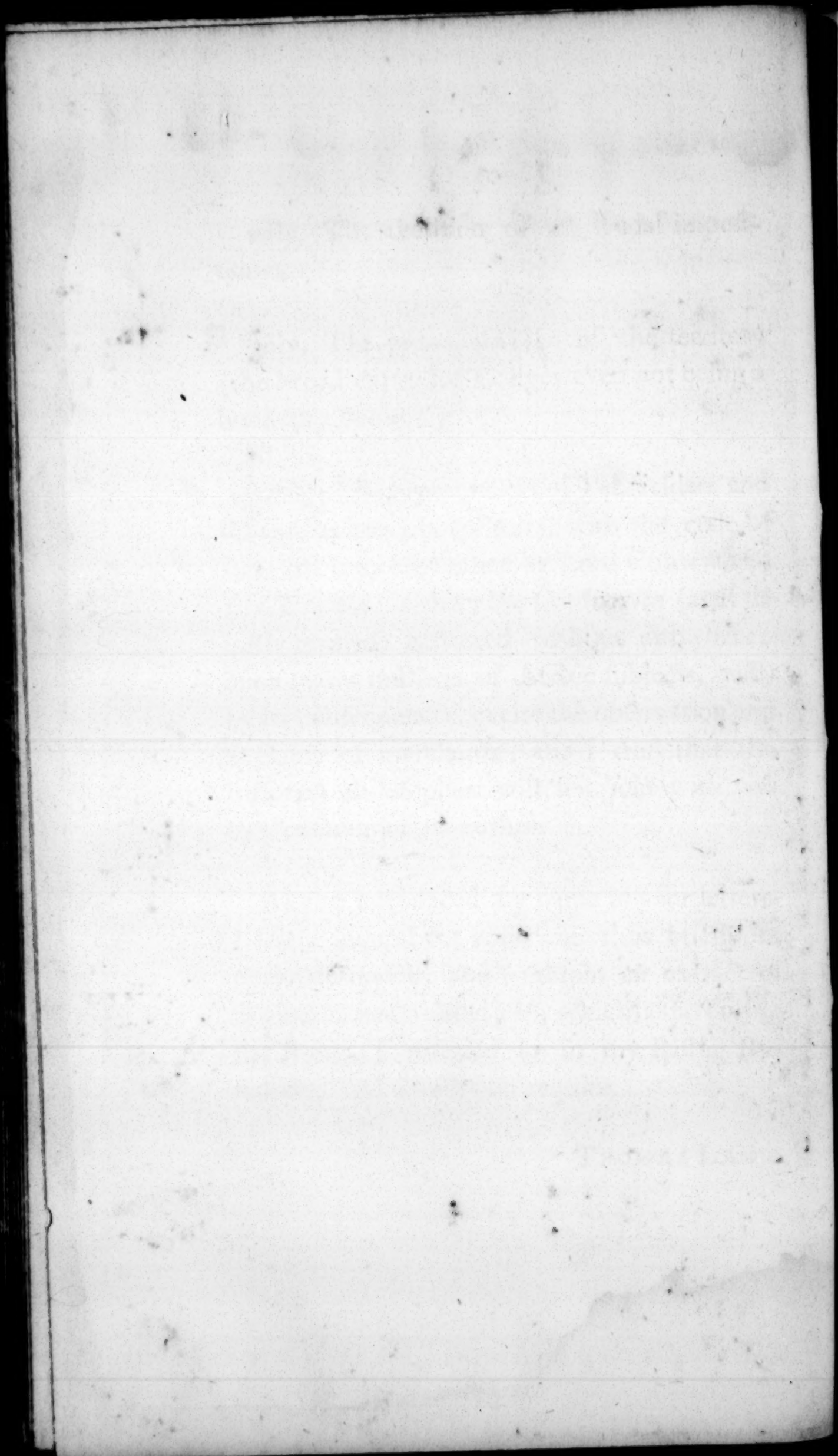
2dly, The abolition of all feudal impositions ;

3dly, The proper division of the territory (the broad expanded Ganges even not being a boundary before) ;

4thly, The appointment of Tehseeldars and Cauzys as *municipal* officers, with the code of criminal laws established by Lord CORNWALLIS, &c. &c. in short *the Constitution* (as it is justly termed) bestowed without disturbance upon many millions of Asiatic subjects, will, by its consequences, excite the observation and applause of merchants ; and I trust that the historian philosophers will not join with you in accusation of its author.

As you introduced my name in your letters, I felt it incumbent upon me thus briefly to vindicate myself, and I subjoin an extract of the letter, *under date* 1786, which, as favouring the Ryots, I referred to in my *Rising Resources*, and which you require.

THOMAS LAW.



Here follows the extract alluded to in the foregoing letter.

“ Hitherto no rules have been drawn, to define the mode of investigating revenue disputes.”

[Then follow proposed regulations, which have been adopted. After this I recommend form for engagements, and then proceed as follows :]

“ The following translate of an advertisement has given great confidence, and will be attended with beneficial consequences.

“ Notice is hereby given, whereas the Ryots complain of the Aumils taking abwaubs (cesses) over and above their engagements, the amount of which are indeterminate, and disputes and references to government arise therefrom prejudicial to the revenues. And whereas the Aumils insert in their engagements the words *abwaub mamooly*, or *customary cesses*, which are not explicit, the Ryots not knowing what payments are to be made, and since Government is desirous of protecting them.—

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“ This

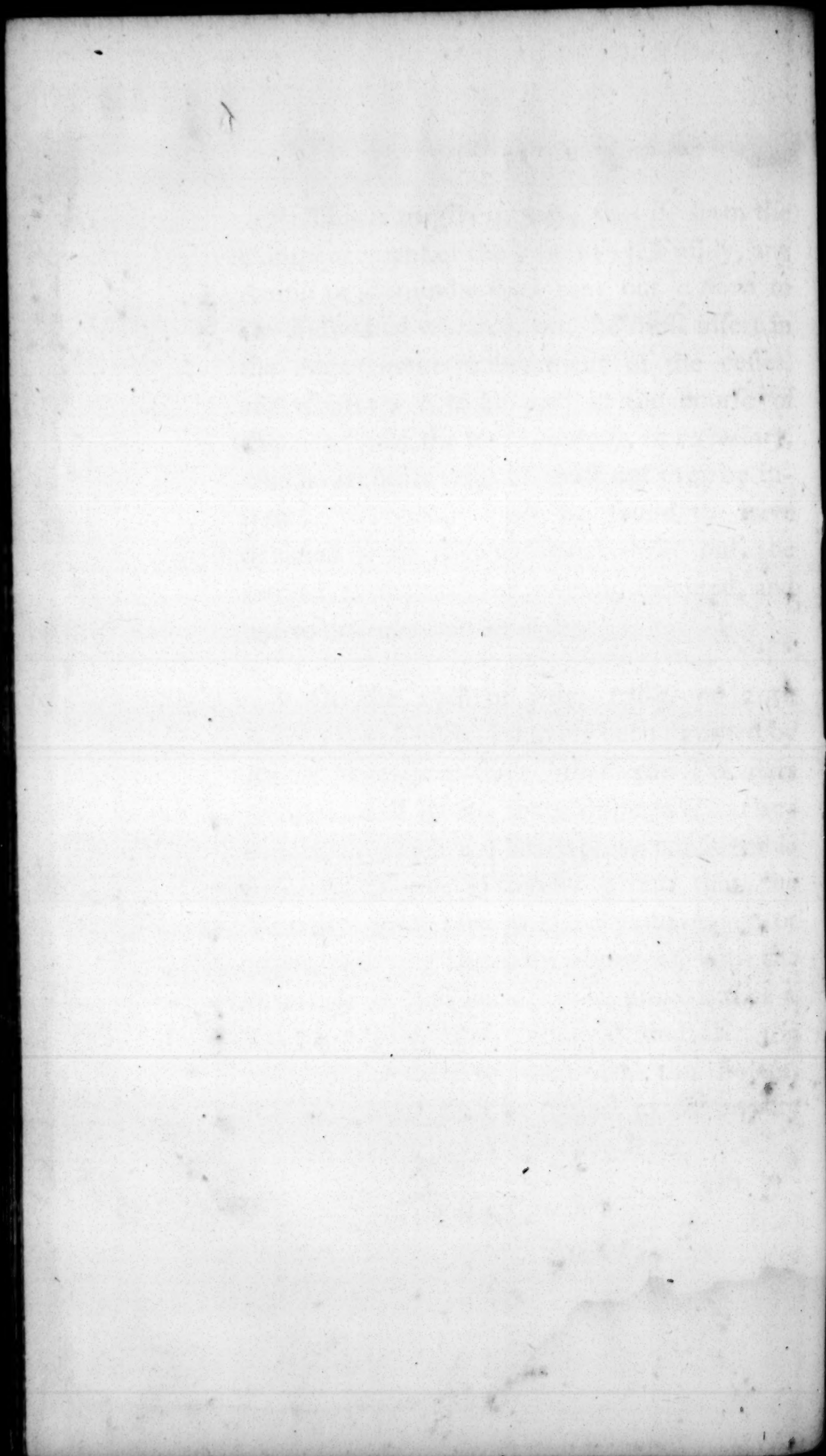
“ This is to give notice, that if, from the commencement of the year 1193, Fuffily, any Aumil or Zemindar shall rent out *a farm* to any individual whomsoever, he must insert in the engagements a statement of the cesses, and whatever is to be paid in the course of the year, and the word *mamooly*, or *customary*, which is quite vague, must not ever be inserted. Whoever shall be found to have deviated from this ordinance, will only be intitled to the *mahl*, or *revenue*, specified, and not to any *abwaubs* or *cesses*.

“ On the 29th of July, 1785, or 29th Affar, 1192, Fuffily, it having been signified by Rajah Mitterjeet Sing, that the Tekadars (renters) and Ryots, have disputes about accounts, in which the latter prove considerable sufferers, Notice is hereby given, that the Tekadars must give to the Ryots a *hujet*, or paper, inserting the daily payments, with the date. If it shall hereafter be proved, that a Ryot has paid ready money,* and that the renter has refused to insert it in the *hujet*, the said renter shall be subject to the penalty of 100 rupees, payable to the Ryot, &c.”

No. 7.

* How is produce ?

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No. 7.

For the Morning Chronicle.

Inserted the 23d. October.

TO GURREEB DOSS.

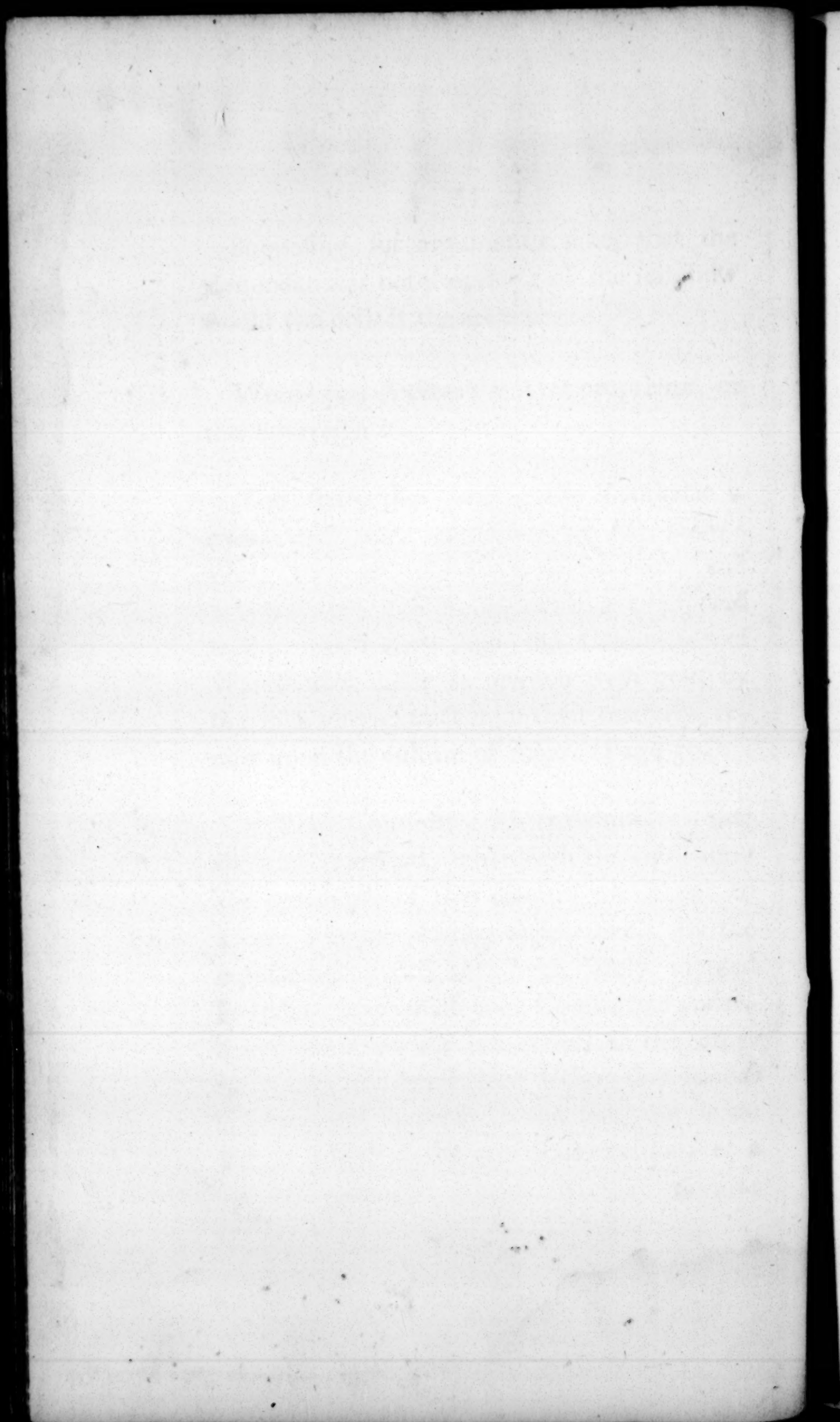
Your quotations are fair, and your observations moderate. Sir C. B. Rous *proves* that the Ryots are merely tenants for a term, and not holders *in capite*. He agrees with Mr. LAW in deeming the Zemindars proprietors of the soil. The Company has admitted these points. If any Ryot holds by a tenure similar to our copyhold, the Courts of Justice will preserve his tenure, and Government cannot interfere in a proprietor's management of his estate, either in justice or policy.

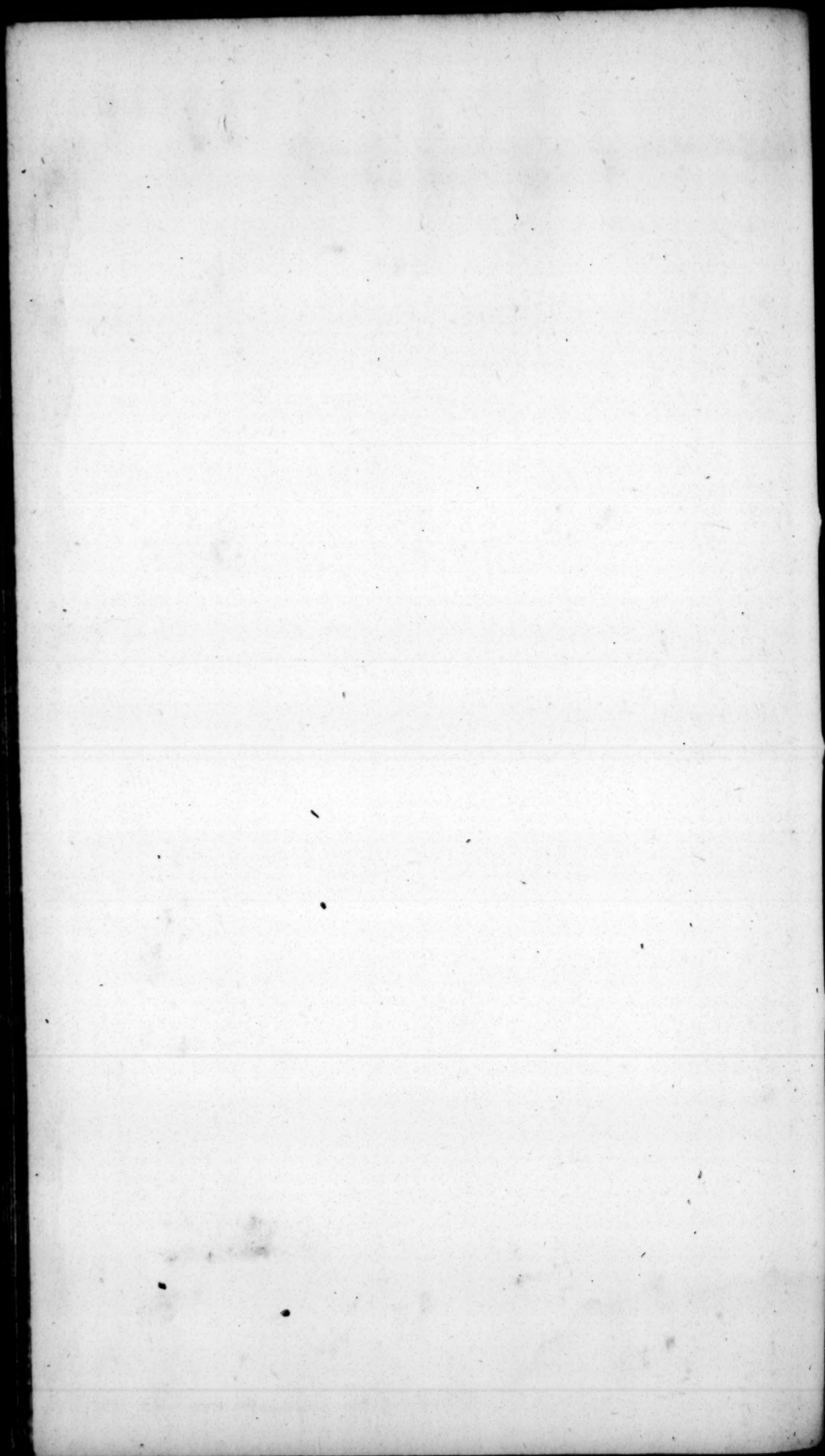
Supposing, for argument's sake, that the Zemindar was not proprietor of the soil, how would you collect the revenues ?

Would you declare the Ryot proprietor, or the Sovereign ?

You state, that though the Zemindar is exonerated from oppression by Mr. LAW's plan, that the *labourer, husbandman, and manufacturer*, will be more than ever exposed to it. I will shew how the Committee of Warehouses differ in opinion with you, by the following extract from their masterly report upon the culture of sugar. Page 53.

“ Your Committee flatter themselves, that the time is arrived, when both the cultivation and commerce of that country are about to assume a more pleasing appearance. By the regulations which have been lately adopted in Bahar, and which your Committee understand, are carrying into effect in the other provinces, the landholder feeling that he has a permanent interest in the soil, and is no longer subject to the rapacious exactions of a
revenue





revenue farmer, will be induced to stimulate the Ryot to exert the utmost of his skill and industry in effecting improvements, the fruits of which he will now enjoy in safety, and which the former system tended rather to discourage than excite. At the same time, the abolition of the Government's customs throughout the interior of the provinces, the removal of the numberless Chokeys stationed by every petty Zemindar in every district, however inconsiderable, with the more recent abolition of the Haute Gunge and Bazar duties,* as well as those payable at the other settlements, on the Coast of Coromandel and Malabar, will give such facility and encouragement to commerce, as your Committee conceive will be the means of producing in abundance almost every article, for which a demand, either foreign or domestic, can be found."

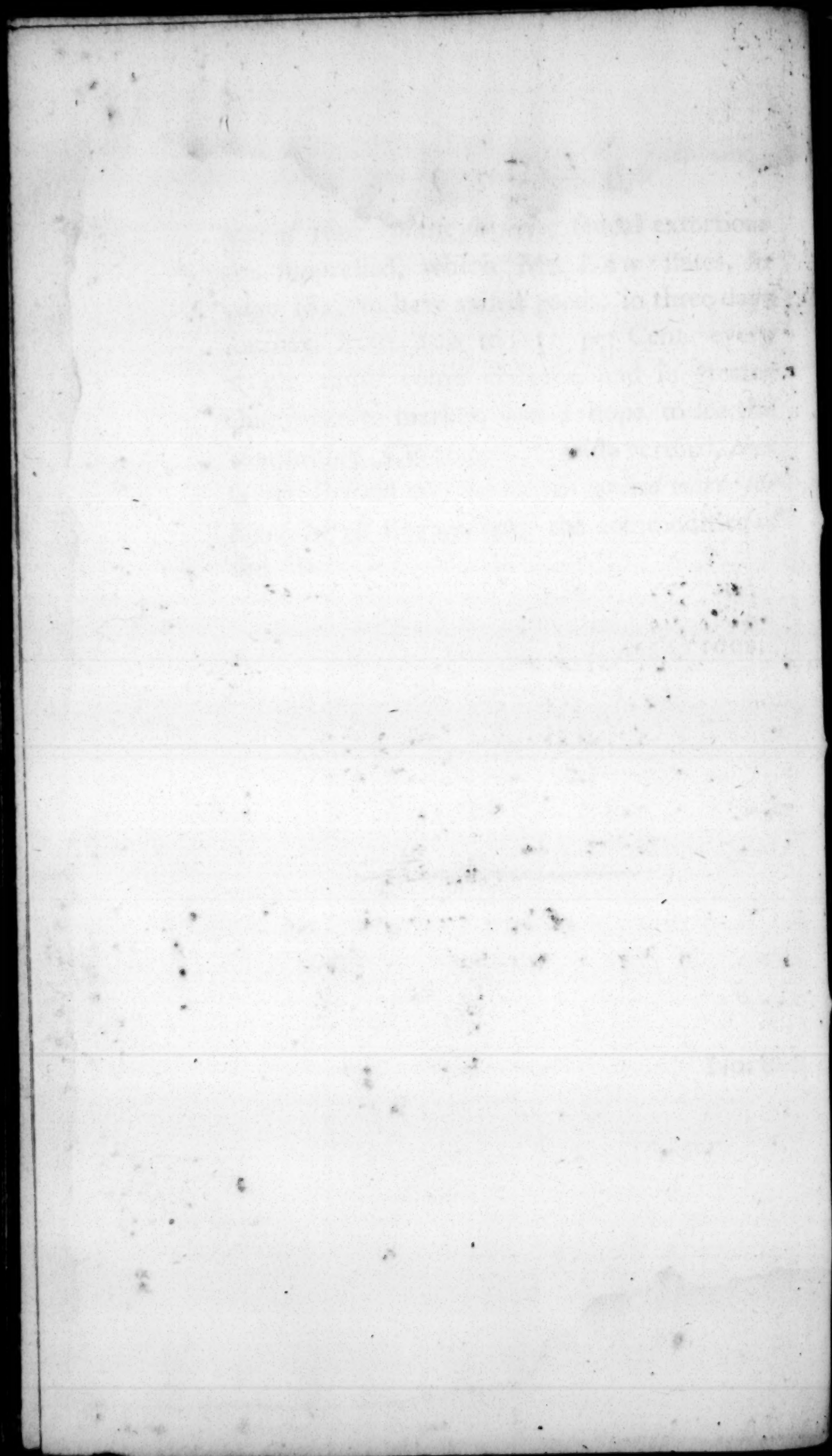
As the Court of Directors justly observe,
 where *a new Constitution is given to many mil-*
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lions

* Mr. Law may enjoy complete satisfaction from this salutary measure, since it has been attended with every possible good effect. The abolition of duties paid by foreigners is found liable to weighty objections.

lions of their Asiatic subjects, feudal extortions are suppressed, which Mr. LAW states, in page 181, to have raised goods, in three days journey, from 100 to 150 per Cent. every article must come cheaper, and in greater abundance to market, and I hope to see the Committee of Warehouses' wish verified, *that Great-Britain may become the grand mart for supplying all Europe with the commodities of the East.*

ASIATICUS.

No. 8.



No. 8.

For the Morning Chronicle.

OCTOBER 18.—Inserted the 23d.

The quotations produced by GURREEB Doss in his second letter, will equally reply to ANGLUS as to ASIATICUS ; since they exhibit the *evidence of Mr. Shore and of the Revenue Board*, as to the *existence of oppression*; and an explanation of the new moccurrence plan, stating the full extent of proposed investigation and redress.

If further proof be required, it may be found in Mr. LAW's Rising Resources of India.

That *this oppression* has been long apparent, is equally *notorious*. ANGLUS is referred on this point, to minutes of Mr. HASTINGS in
the

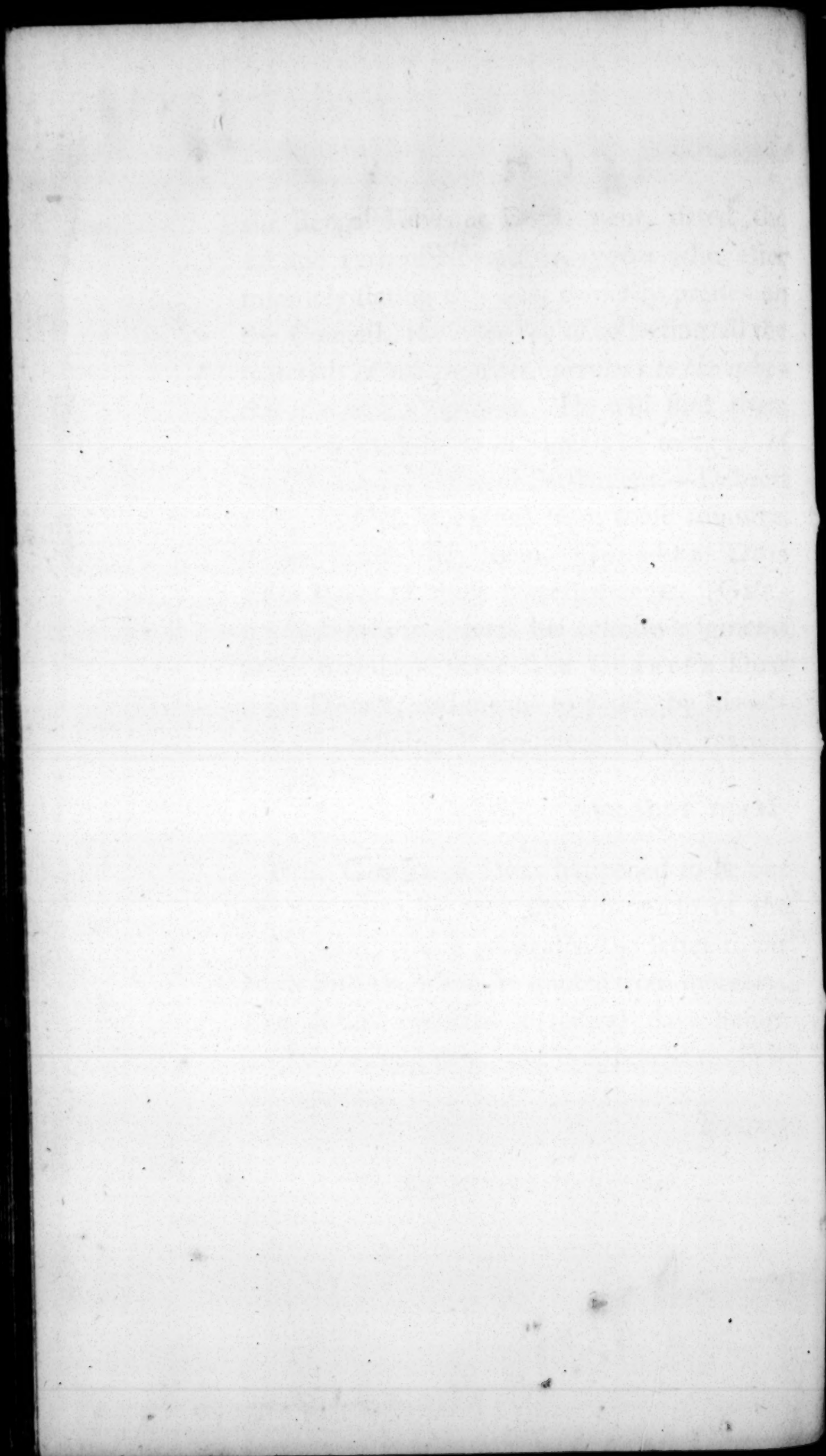
the Bengal Revenue Department, dated the 1st and 12th of November, 1776 ; who, after minutely stating this fact, earnestly presses on the Council, the necessity of collecting all the materials of information, *previous to the adoption of a plan of Reform*. He will find them on Consultations, or in pages 153 to 155, of Mr. FRANCIS's plan of Settlement.—Debrett 1782.—With an extract from these minutes, if the Editor has room, GURREEB DOSS takes leave of these correspondents. GURREEB desires to express his acknowledgments to his friend and name-fake GURREEB DOSS KAU DOOST, and means to profit by his advice of declining “ argument upon matters of fact.”*

GURREEB DOSS.

P. S. GURREEB DOSS happened to be out of town when he read the Chronicle of the first instant, which prompted the letter to Sir JOHN SHORE, when he quoted from memory. The Editor received it several days before Sir John's departure, and it appeared on Friday morning.

Extract

* The letter here alluded to is omitted.



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Extract alluded to in the preceding.

Revenue Department, Nov. 12, 1776.

GOVERNOR GENERAL.

P. 153.—“ Besides the immediate business of the proposed office, I have recommended, as a second object of its researches, the *better and more effectual regulation of pottabs* for the *security of the Ryots*, in the *perpetual and undisturbed possession of their lands*, and to guard them against *arbitrary taxations*. The words *perpetual possession* and *their lands*, which may be mere inaccuracies of expression, for they were not meant to convey the idea of any positive or exclusive right of possession, have been noticed by Mr. FRANCIS as contradictory to the rights of property, which are vested in the Zemindar. I shall not here attempt to account for the distinctions of property, as they are understood in this country. It is sufficient for me to observe, that *while*
the

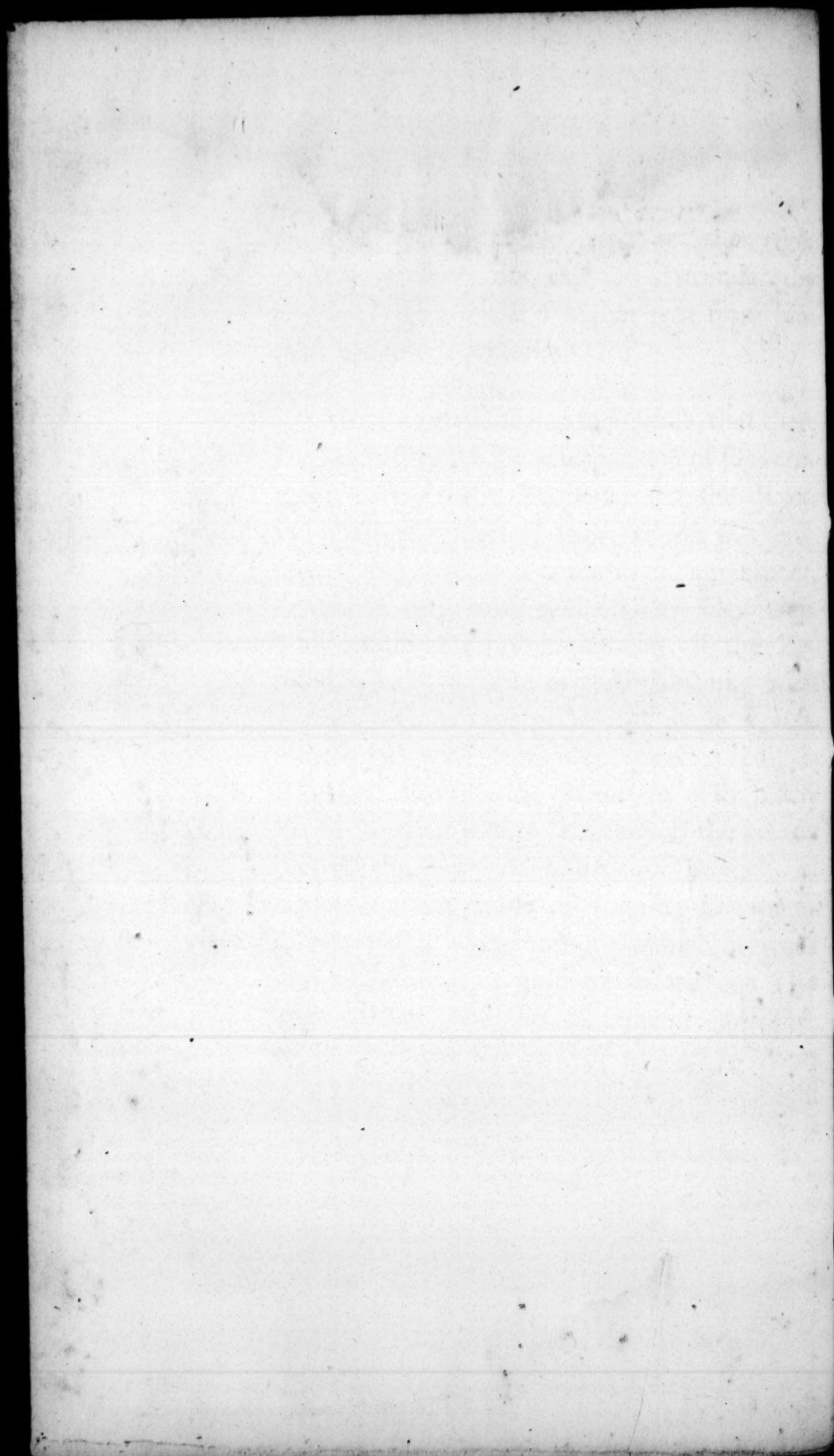
the Ryot pays his rent, the Zemindar has no right to dispossess him ; nor can the Zemindar, by any legal right, exact a higher rent from him than his pottah prescribes."

" Mr. FRANCIS seems to suppose, that there is no necessity for the interposition of Government, between the Zemindar and the Ryot. He observes, ' that if they are left to themselves, they will soon come to an agreement, in which each party will find his advantage. This would be a just conclusion, if the Zemindars were capable of distinguishing what was for their advantage.' But it is a fact, which will with difficulty obtain credit in England, though the notoriety will justify me in asserting it here, that much the greater part of the Zemindars, both of Bengal and Bahar, are incapable of judging for themselves, being either minors or men of weak understandings, or absolute idiots*. This circumstance, and the consequent *oppressions which are exercised by those who act for them,* without

* Accounted for in *Thoughts on permanent Leases*, p. 49.
Stockdale.

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without any interest in the prosperity of the Zemindary, render it necessary to provide for the security of the Ryots by checks and regulations (SO FRAMED, AS TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN EFFECT, p. 119.) It is to be observed also, that there are two kinds of Ryots. The more valuable are those who reside in one fixed spot, where they have built themselves substantial houses, or derived them by inheritance from their fathers. These men will *suffer much before they abandon their habitations, and, therefore, are made to suffer much*; but when once forced to quit them, they become vagrant Ryots. The vagrant Ryots, as Mr. FRANCIS observes, have it in their power, in some measure, to make their own terms with the Zemindars. They take land at an under rent; hold it for one season; the Zemindar then increases their rent, or *exacts more from them than their agreement*; and the Ryots either desert, or if they continue, they hold their lands at a rent lower than the established rent of the country. Thus the antient and industrious tenants are obliged to submit to undue exaction, while the vagrant Ryots enjoy lands

at

at half price ; which operates as an encouragement to desertion, and to the depopulation of the country.

“ The general subject of pottahs, *and the abuses and oppressions arising from the present uncertainty, and the variety of articles that compose Ryots accounts,* have been often matter of just complaint ; and, I believe, every member of the Board is satisfied, that they require to be reformed. All that I now propose, is to collect materials of information on this subject to be laid before the Board, for their future determination, on the most effectual means of regulating the Pottahs. At present, I am not prepared to propose a complete plan, and decline giving a premature and partial opinion, while I am professedly seeking for the grounds which are to determine it.”

No. 9

Reading Church, the 30th January, 1841

THOMAS LAWSON

THE HISTORY OF THE
 REIGN OF KING
 CHARLES THE FIRST

IN WHICH IS
 CONTAINED
 THE LIFE AND DEATH OF
 THAT MONARCH

BY
 JOHN BURNET
 A BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

LONDON
 Printed by J. Streater, at the
 Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church
 Lane, near St. Dunstons Church

1679

No. 9.

Morning Chronicle, the 3d November, 1792.

TO THOMAS LAW, Esq.

“ Till Government ascertain the number of villages in each
“ Zemindary, they continue in ignorance: till they limit demand,
“ property is nominal: till they arrange gunge duties, com-
“ merce is insecure: till they annul the extortion of mulcts by
“ Proprietors, every subject is unprotected.”

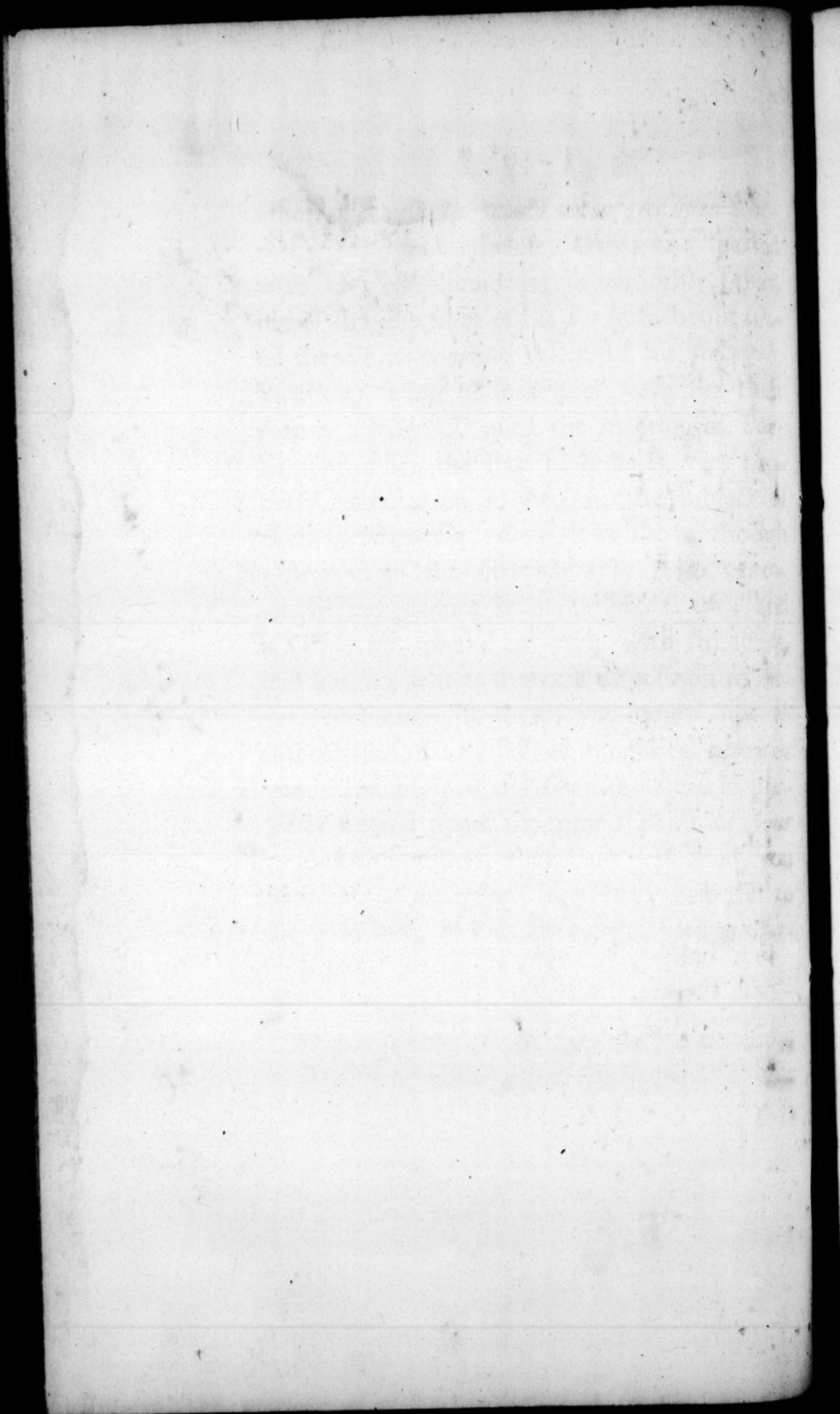
S I R,

As every Author naturally reads his own productions when they issue from the press, the same Chronicle, which conveyed your letter to GURREEB DOSS, would also communicate his further sentiments on the subject, from which you would learn, that GURREEB had very politely taken leave of his correspondents ASIATICUS, ANGLUS, and others,

others, because *he would not argue upon matters of fact*: nevertheless, GURREEB parted with his correspondents so amicably, that, out of the *plentitude* of his *stores*, he bequeathed them a *monumental* token of his *strength*, in a long string of *additional facts* for their *private amusement*, until the meeting of Parliament, when the state of India is, very properly, once more to become the subject of their investigation. GURREEB DOSS, though a stranger to the characters of ASIATICUS, and others, cannot be so to Mr. LAW; and if GURREEB parted amicably with strangers, and has no where shewn a disposition to *anger*, even amongst them, you ought not to suspect him of any hostile intentions towards you. Indeed, you and GURREEB are so perfectly agreed upon the grand point of *your* proposed discussion, that I am persuaded, you have *only to understand each other*, in order to say with him, “ *I will not argue upon matters of fact.*”

It was not necessary, Sir, on this occasion, to send your name to the newspaper, for the purpose

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purpose of avowing yourself the author of the present mokurrery plan : on the contrary, it was distrusting the fair-fame of your " Rising " Resources," which had already announced it to the public, and so far obtained attention, that they were well satisfied ; the plan now *returned* to India was founded thereon, and your friends, jealously tenacious of your rights, could not but indignantly conceive *the merit to be assumed elsewhere*, which your departure from India, with your plan unadopted, if not un-encouraged, furnished an event *very* conveniently affording the opportunity of ~~so~~ bare-faced a plagiarism.

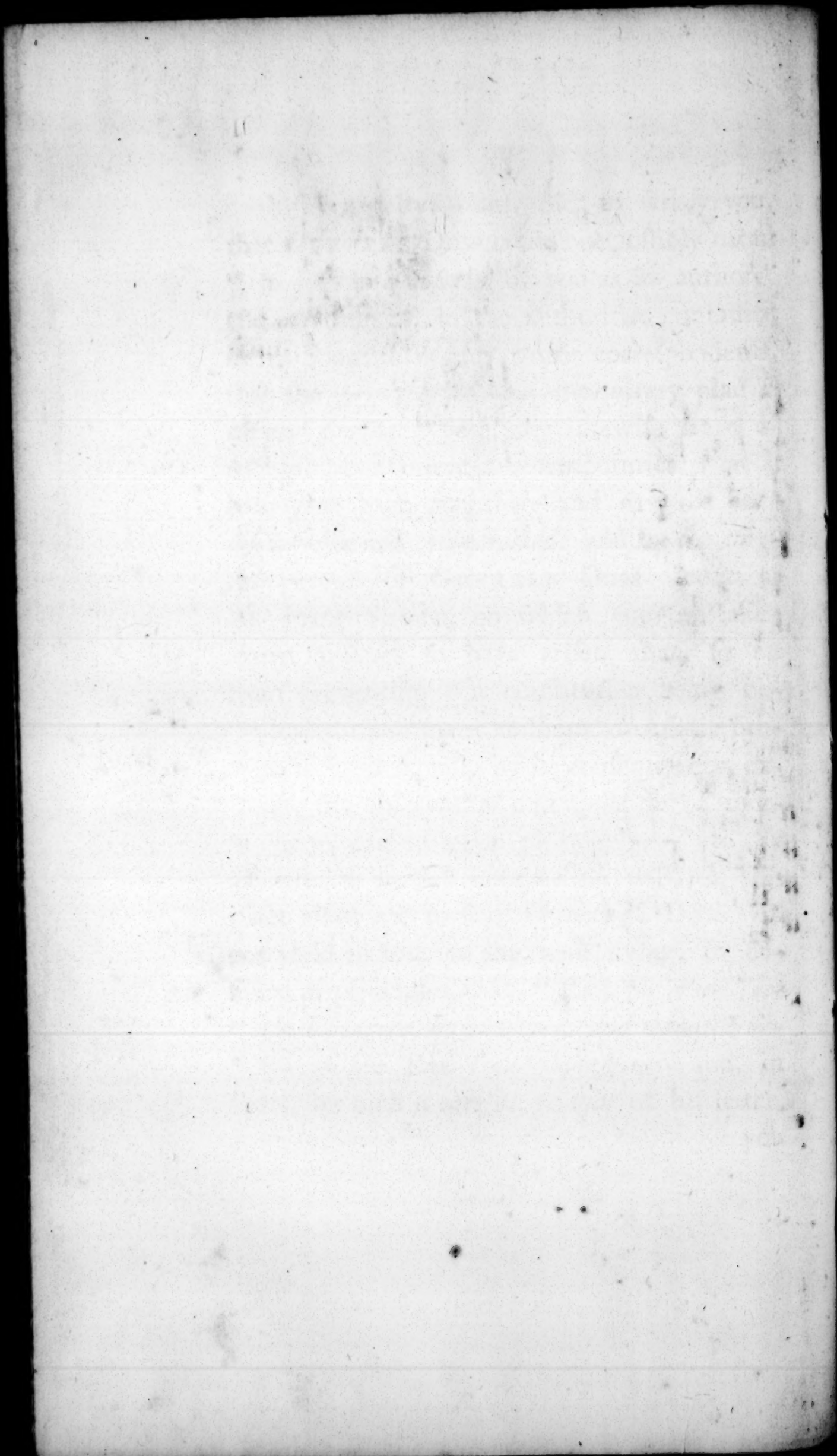
The use, then, which GURREEB Doss made of your name, must, by every one, have been understood as an high compliment to your work, from whence he assumed facts and avowed data, which, *though long familiar to them*, had now the sanction of public reception under your introduction from the press, and, therefore, had not to undergo the public scrutiny, how far they were to be relied on as founded in truth, or came in the shape of

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doubtful

doubtful novelty. But, Sir, to satisfy you, that GURREEB DOSS could not possibly mean “ to join in *accusation* of you as its author,” you *may* find, from the authorities contained in his bountiful legacy to his correspondents, that the *principle* of this mokurrery plan is *old* and *familiar*: you may likewise learn amongst your oriental cotemporaries, that it has *often* been *suggested*—and as *often* been *discouraged* and *counteracted*: and by *one careful* perusal of GURREEB DOSS’ letter to Sir JOHN SHORE, on which your mistaken alarm appears to have arisen, that, so far from preventing “ a constitution being bestowed upon many millions of Asiatic subjects, which will, by its consequences, excite the observation and applause of merchants and historian philosophers,” to say as little as modest comparison will, in this place allow me to say, GURREEB DOSS will not yield to you, or any man living, in defence of principles that “ *shall for ever free the labourers, husbandmen, and manufacturers of the East from oppression* :” and, in short, by such a *careful perusal* of his letter,

you



you will find him a most zealous advocate for "*the total extinction of oppression.*" His writings mean this, or they mean nothing :— so that it is *practice*, not *principle*, upon which you are at variance. He contends, that the adoption of a mokurrery plan will be unreasonable and improper, "*without a previous minute investigation*, which, it is admitted, has not yet taken place, and until the rights of every individual claimant to landed property has been clearly determined, and the extent of authorities under which he is to contribute, clearly defined :—" and, I cannot think, you will contend, that it ought to be adopted, "*while government are so ignorant of their possessions, that they know not the number of villages in each Zemindary : while demand is so unlimited, that property is nominal ; and while the extortion of mulcts by Proprietors is in such practice, that every subject is unprotected.*"

I fear, Sir, that you form your judgment of *our* general knowledge of the *whole* of our

territorial possessions, and, consequently, their competency to receive your plan, from your own local knowledge, founded on your own critical investigation of the division only of Narhut Samoy, committed to your immediate jurisdiction: and, in this, you are certainly right, as far as your experience goes.

Why we are not as familiarly acquainted with every part of our oriental possessions and resources, and why “a constitution, which will, by its consequences, excite the observation and applause of merchants and historian philosophers,” has been so long *with-held* from “*many millions of Asiatic subjects,*” cannot fail to excite their animadversions, murmurs, censures, and fulminations also.

What said your friend Mr. SHORE upon this point, just before he left India? This Gentleman had then been *upwards of twenty years* in the Company’s service, *always* employed in the revenue department and *no other*, and who has lately been nominated Governor-General

Received of the Hon. the Secy. of the Navy
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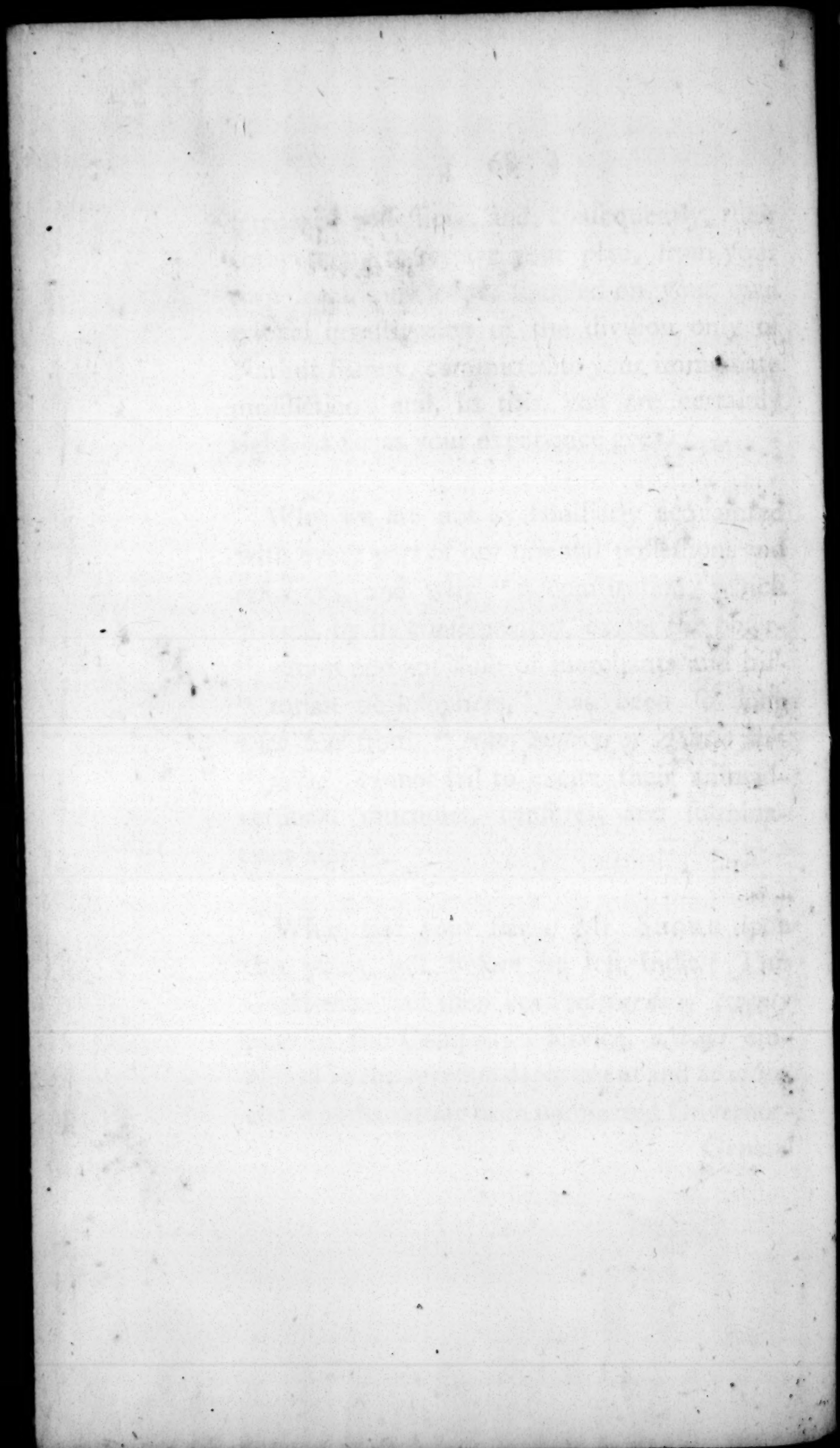
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General of India, as a reward (as uninformed people conclude) for his long services and general knowledge, with a view (as they also erroneously suppose) that the Company may benefit by his *great* experience.

When your mokurrery plan was under consideration, Mr. SHORE asked you these *simple* questions ;

“ Are the rents of the Ryots so *determinate*
 “ and *known*, as to enable the officers of
 “ Government to *decide* upon their com-
 “ plaints *easily* and *expeditiously* ? By what
 “ specific rule is this certainty ascertained ?
 “ and are any additional rules necessary ? ”

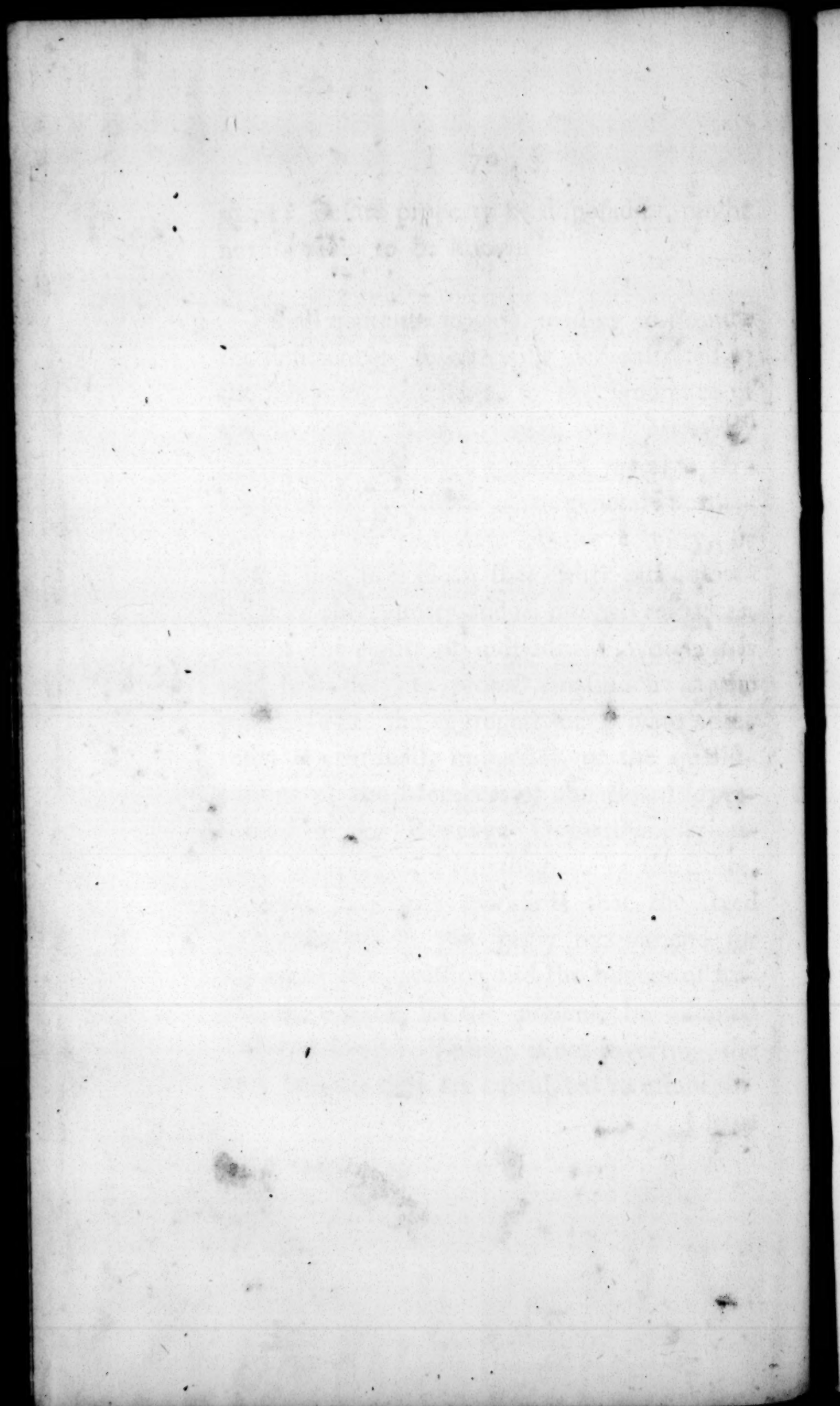
And I observe, these were followed by many similar questions, as replete with ignorance, put to you collectively by the Revenue Board, of which Mr. SHORE was president: for instance, "how are we assured of having included all the proper territorial share and resources belonging to Govern-

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ment?

ment? Before property be disposed of, ought not its value to be known?"

I shall make no remark, tending to impute the deficiencies so obviously demonstrated in the foregoing questions, to the ignorance of the Revenue Board, which was *professedly* composed of the best qualified revenue servants, or to the defects of our general information as to the real state of the country, or both: but, it is clear, that either our knowledge of the country and its internal resources, and of the rights of individuals, which it is our first duty to protect, inasmuch as the public is but the aggregate of private interests, is criminally imperfect, or the qualifications of the Members of the Board superintending the Revenue Department criminally deficient, and whether one or the other, or both, it clearly manifests that the fixed principles which you justly recommend for the relief of oppression and the honour of humanity, cannot, for the present, be adopted without forever risking, if not inverting, the very benefits they are calculated to establish.

I have



I have now to desire, Sir, that you will not mistake the motive of this answer to your letter addressed to GURREEB DOSS. You cannot but be sensible, that it is purely defensive. If you knew GURREEB DOSS, you would say with me, this is not a man, who will arraign a system, which has natural right and humanity for its objects : this is a man, than whom humanity has not a more faithful advocate, and whose philanthropy cannot fail “ to excite the observation and applause of “ merchants and historian philosophers, who “ *will* join him,” in the support of his principles.

Having said thus much in defence of GURREEB DOSS, I shall lay before you the opinion of a friend, whom I have consulted on this point, the better to enable you to judge how far the *immediate* execution of your mokurrery plan militates against its ultimate success ; and this I the more readily repeat to you, as it fully corroborates your own opinion, “ that the farming system has “ been the ruin of Bengal.”—His opinion is as follows :—

F 4

“ That

“ That although we have possessed the
 “ Dewannee of Bengal with Sovereign au-
 “ thority near thirty years, and those very
 “ valuable territories called the Ceded Lands,
 “ made over to us by MEER JAFFIER, much
 “ longer, we are, at this time, comparative-
 “ ly speaking, more ignorant of, and more
 “ estranged from, the true value of their re-
 “ sources, than the very first year we ac-
 “ quired them. Of the Dewannee, I never
 “ could find that we had any true records :
 “ of the Ceded Lands we had : but, even of
 “ the latter, scarce a vestige is now forth-
 “ coming, and of the rich Calcutta Purgun-
 “ nahs, barely two-thirds of the Mal-Ze-
 “ meen will, at this time, be found unalie-
 “ nated from the public contributions of the
 “ State.”

What more can I say ?

GURREEB DOSS KAU DOOST,

scarcely

It is necessary to state, that the above Letter was written and published without the knowledge of, or any communication with, GURREEB DOSS.

No.

(33)

No. 12

THE T. E. R.

TO THOMAS J. R.

SIR,

The Letter is received and the
contents of the letter are being
considered.

The letter is being
considered and the
contents of the letter are
being considered.

Yours
Sincerely,
J. R.

(73)

No. 10.

L E T T E R 4.

Morning Chronicle, the 3d November, 1792.

TO THOMAS LAW, Esq.

S I R,

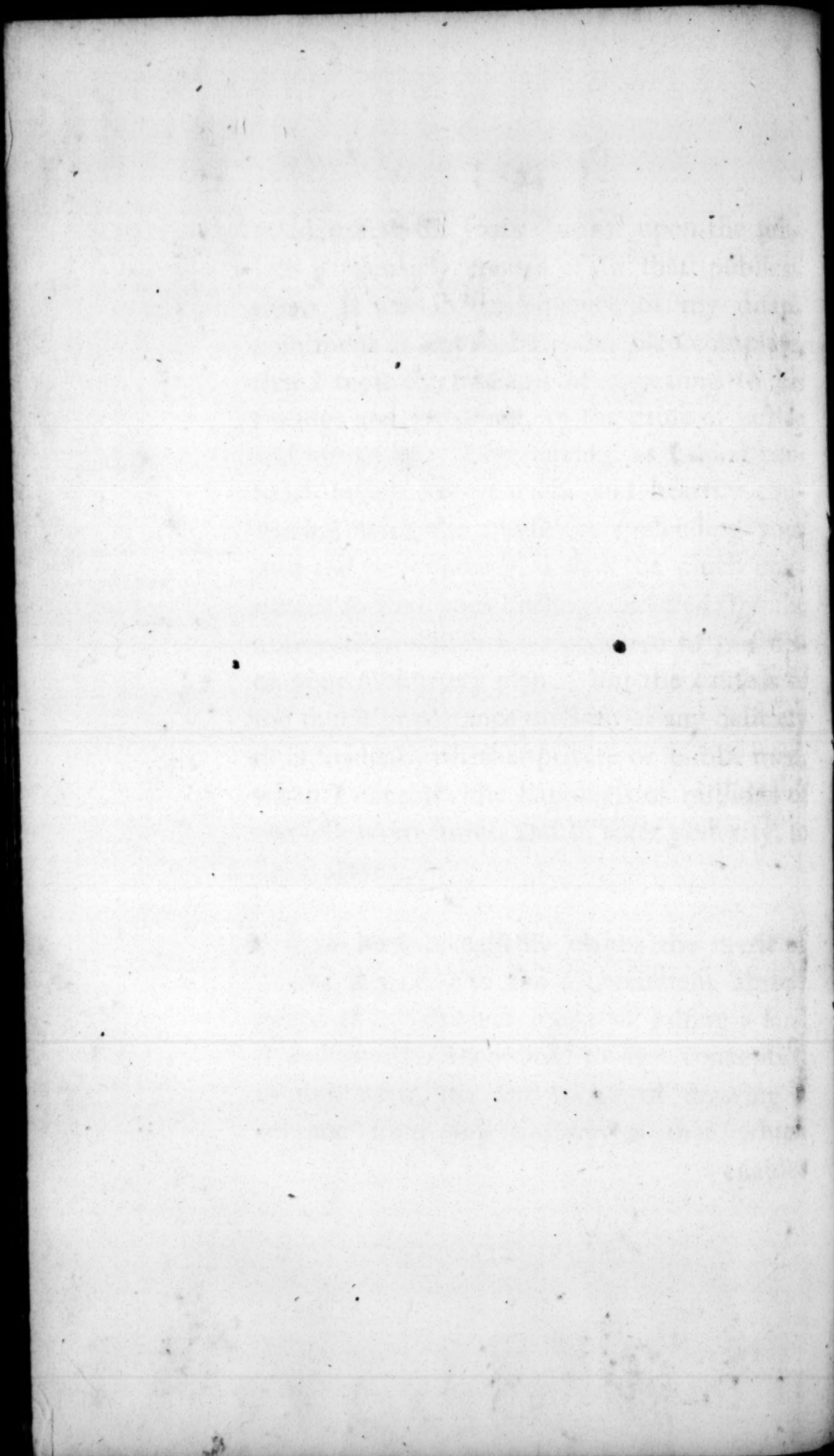
Oct. 29.

Your Letter to GURREEB DOSS, in the Chronicle of Tuesday last, demands attention,

You may have perceived, by the many free quotations made from it, that I must have read your *Rising Resources of India*, previously
to

to addressing Sir JOHN SHORE upon the subject particularly treated of in that publication. It was in consequence of my disappointment at not finding your plan complete, that I took the freedom of appealing to his feelings and judgment, in the cause of justice and humanity. Entertaining, as I do, a personal regard for yourself, and heartily concurring with the public in applauding your zeal and perseverance, I shall be much concerned to find your feelings affected by the observations which have occurred to me upon your mokurrery plan. But the cause is of too much importance to admit of any delicacy to individuals, whether private or public men, when I conceive the happiness of millions of our fellow-creatures, and of their posterity, to be at stake.

Your book professedly claims the merit of having suggested to the Government abroad (page 38) "the best mode of raising a land revenue." According to my conception of this term, the *best* mode of drawing a revenue from any country, is that which enables



enables the subject to pay his ascertained contribution with the least possible inconvenience, and Government to collect it at the smallest expence, without risque of delay or disappointment, and with the fewest intermediate agents between the Exchequer and the contributor.

The greater portion of gross taxes in all countries, is paid by the lower class of inhabitants—by the labourer, husbandman, and manufacturer. In our eastern provinces, now that inland duties are abolished, the land-tax, or quit-rent, is almost the only tribute levied on the natives. This burthen falls entirely upon the two latter, whose abject state has hitherto exposed them (as I think I have sufficiently proved) to every species of oppression; whose indispensable application to daily labour for obtaining daily bread, renders it impossible for them to waste any considerable part of their time or property, *in tedious and expensive attendance upon Courts of Justice*, and obliges them, therefore, either to submit to, or fly from, every exaction and abuse, rather

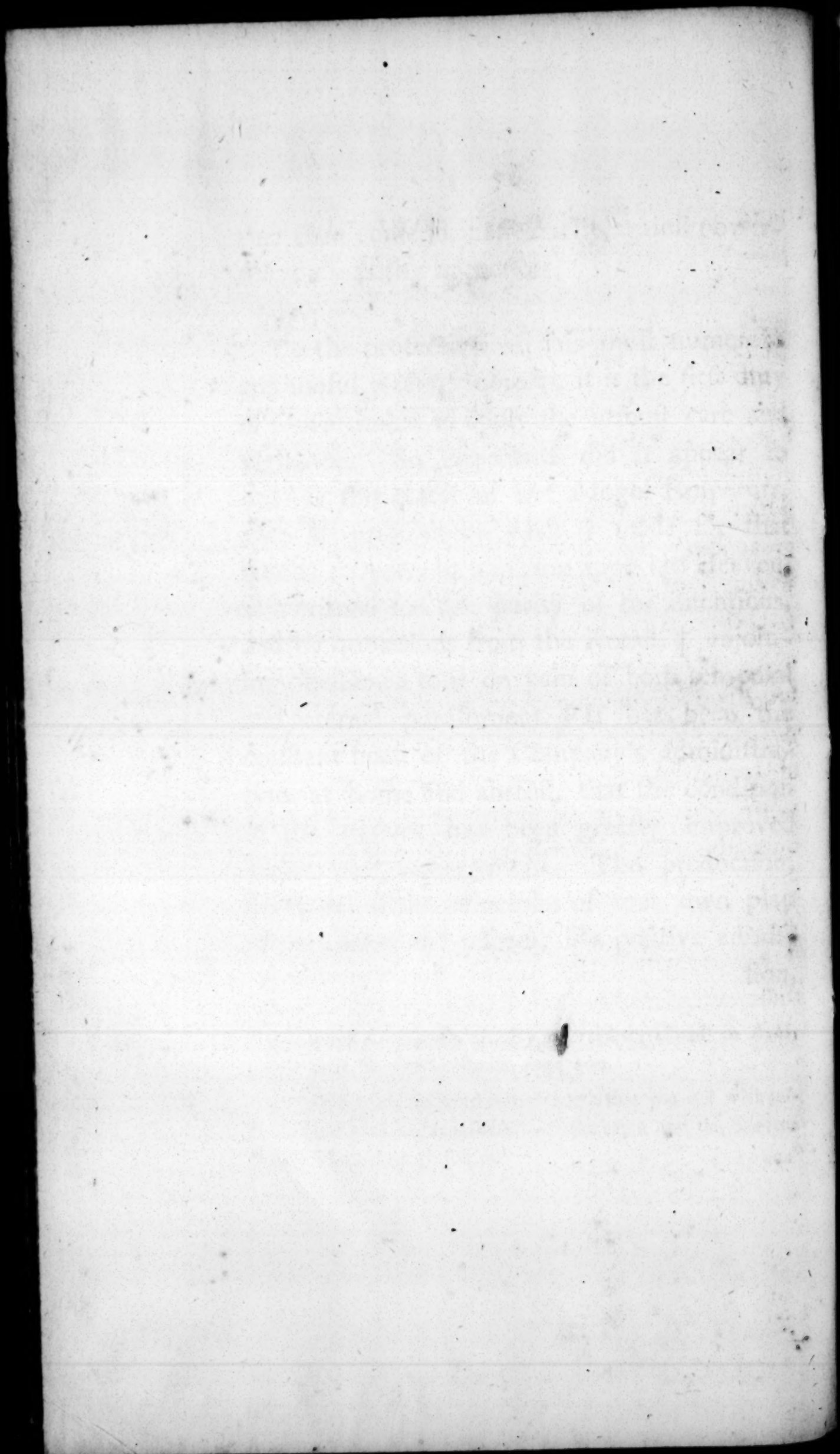
ther than contend, ineffectually, against powerful and wealthy oppressors.

To the protection of this most numerous and useful class of subjects, it is the first duty of Government to apply the utmost care and vigilance. So important did it appear to one of the ablest of the Mogul Emperors, that he prefaces an edict, † made for that special purpose, by a solemn appeal to Heaven, as a witness for the purity of his intentions, and by quotations from the Koran, ‡ enjoining obedience to it on pain of both temporal and eternal punishment. ¶ It has been the constant boast of the Company's administrations at home and abroad, that the condition of the natives has been greatly improved under our management. The production, however, of the principles of your own plan of regulation and reform, is a positive admission,

// Par

† That of Aurengzeb, already referred to, issued in A. H. 1079, or A. D. 1668—Rouse, page 300.

‡ “Of a truth the Lord commandeth that you act with justice and with righteousness,”—“the earth and the heavens stand firm through justice.”



sion, that, till *your mokurrery system at least shall have been brought into practice*, though much may have been done before, yet, that *much more has remained unfinished.*

I have endeavoured to shew, from your own explanations of this plan, how very incomplete and incompetent it is to the object which it professes to attain; that it has one great and radical defect in the first principle,|| which ought to form the basis of any fixed establishment of landed property; and that every plan must be defective, until *complete investigation shall have preceded permanent regulation*; and have enabled the Government of India, in the first place, to ascertain the value and extent of its territory, with the quantum of gross tribute collected from the people; and afterwards, to form a perfect check and controul over the intended “ native “ Gentlemen,” the Lords of the soil, and their delegates, by affording a cheap, direct, and instantaneous method of redressing the
Ryot,

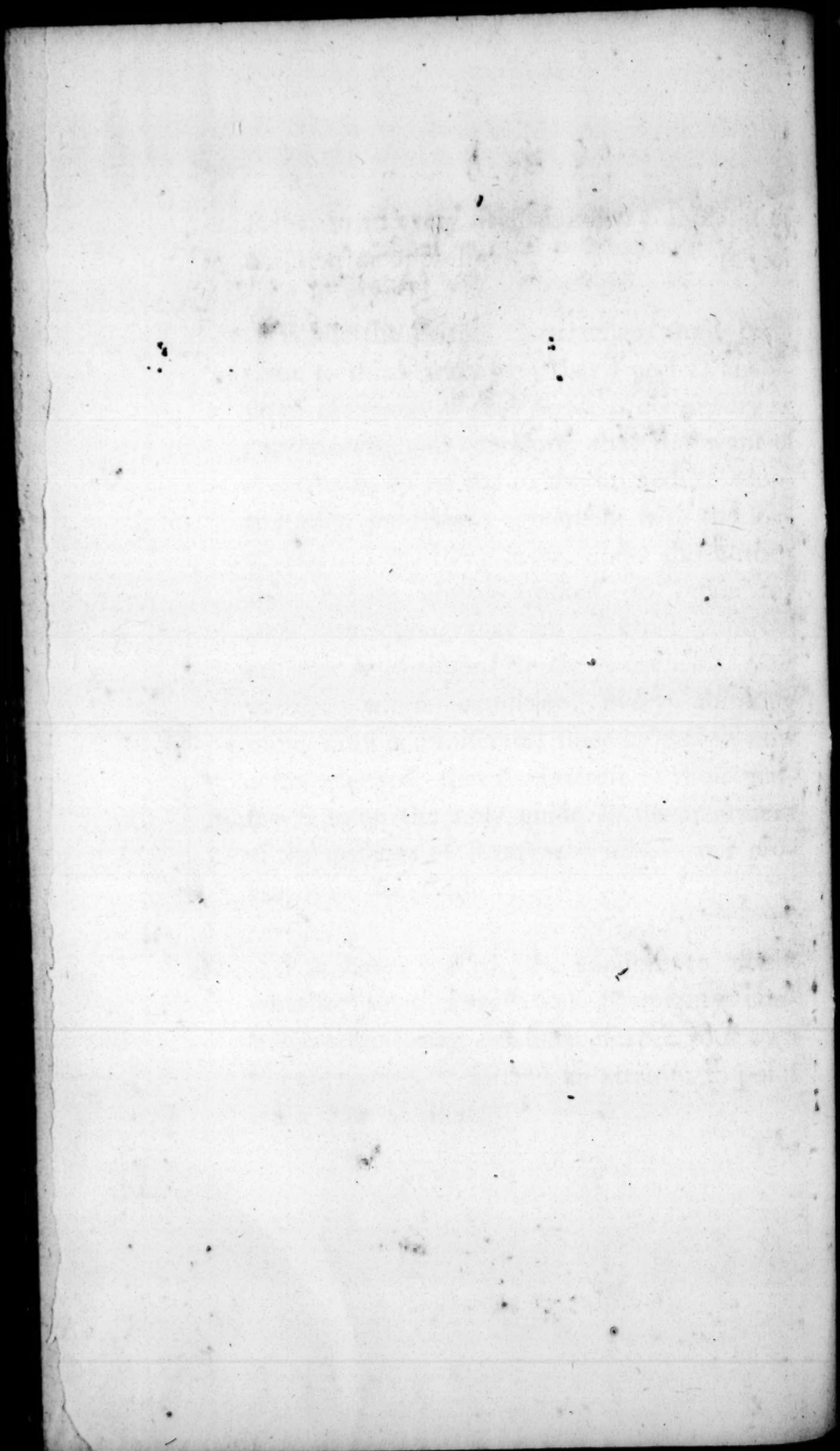
|| See page 42, *Thoughts on permanent Leases*, for Mr. SHORE's opinion in 1785.

Ryot, upon every well-founded complaint of exaction or oppression.

While the British Government shall continue to think with you, that a perfect analysis of *the rights of these people is unnecessary or unattainable*, and therefore, that the want of it ought to be no bar to the immediate adoption of a permanent agreement with the Zemindars, I must beg leave, under the authorities I have already quoted, to retain my own conviction, that no effectual controul *can ever be established for the protection of their vassals*: whose condition, every thinking mind must commiserate, since it is even now acknowledged, that the interest of their masters is to be the only guide in the treatment of the millions of Ryots who inhabit our provinces in the East.

You have, indeed, the candour to doubt whether some (page 64) "weighty considerations may not have escaped your own penetration." Permit an attempt to point out a few of them.

You .

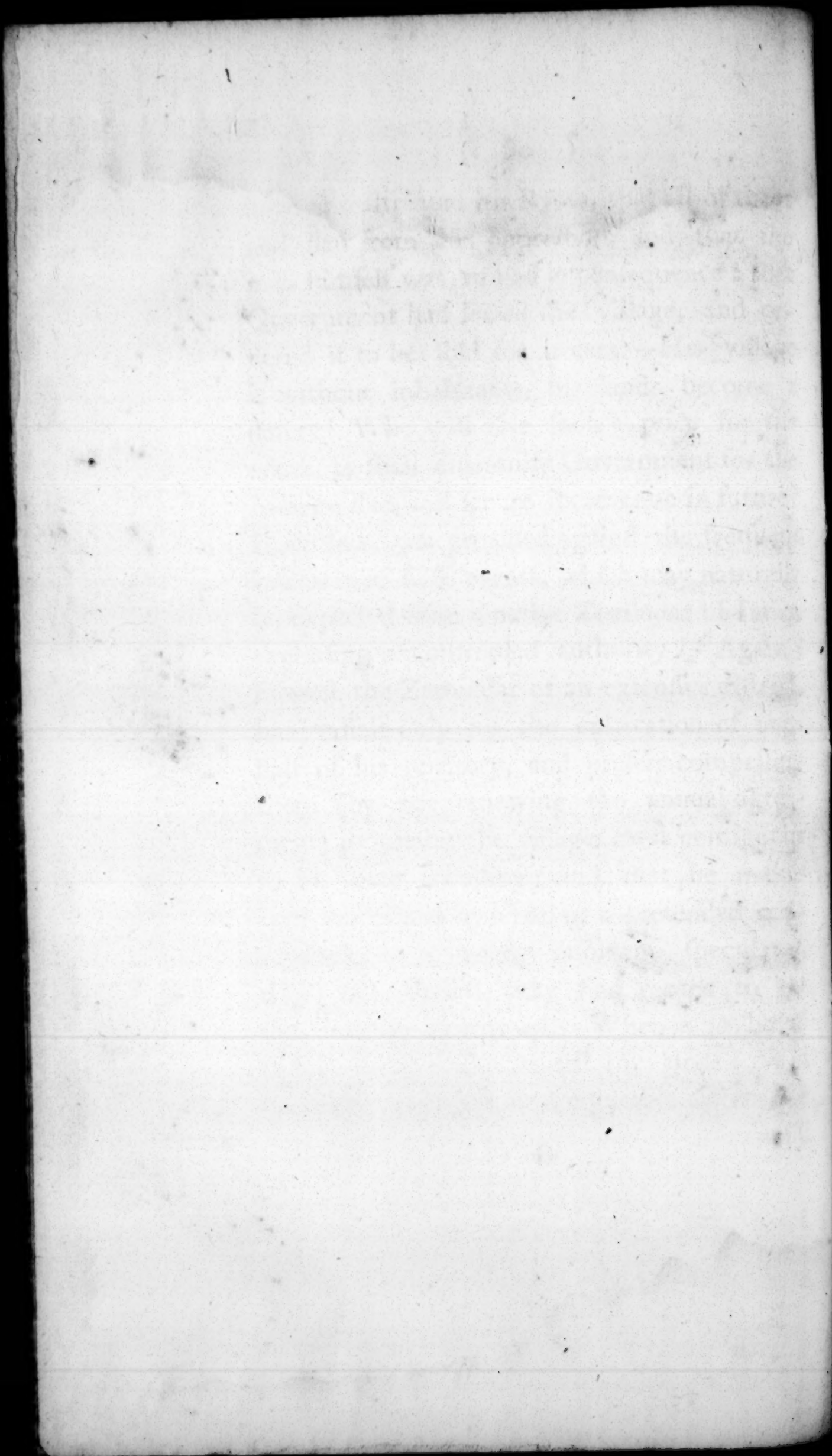


You state (page 49) "that the security of Government is in the land," and yet take no effectual measures for protecting the cultivator of it in the free enjoyment of the fruits of his labour; (page 50) "that every year increases confidence by length of possession," (of the village, I take for granted, you mean.) Will not the direct contrary effect continue to operate, while the cultivator is left at the mercy of an avaricious Zemindar or his more mercenary dependant, without other office of record, than what *he himself may chuse to establish, and which he may change at pleasure.*

Par 11

Page 56. "That the villages, being liable to the fixed rent only, and answerable for the instalments, any one of them may be sold, without loss of revenue to Government." Are you not aware that the sunshine of patronage will *build and people one in a fortnight*; and the frown of authority, ruin and depopulate the most extensive in a twelvemonth? Put the case of a village-proprietor, forgetting his apparent *interest*, to have

have so maltreated his Ryots, that all of them had fled from his oppression, and that the man himself was ruined in consequence : that Government had seized the village, and ordered it to be sold for arrears.—His village is without inhabitants, his lands become a desert ! Who will give such a price for the estate, as shall indemnify Government for the balance due, and secure its revenue in future ? How have you provided against the frequent instances of such events, which may naturally be expected from a native Zemindar of India, exercising uncontrouled authority ? // Again ; suppose the Zemindar of an extensive district, has vassals only for the cultivation of one-half of his territory, and prefers compelling them (by not renewing the annual agreement) to inhabit the villages most contiguous to his own dwelling ; and that he makes over the others by a real or a pretended conveyance, to a needy insolvent speculator, who, nevertheless, may find means to get the transfer confirmed. Whence is he to collect other vassals to till the lands ? Will he, under your just and equitable system, be



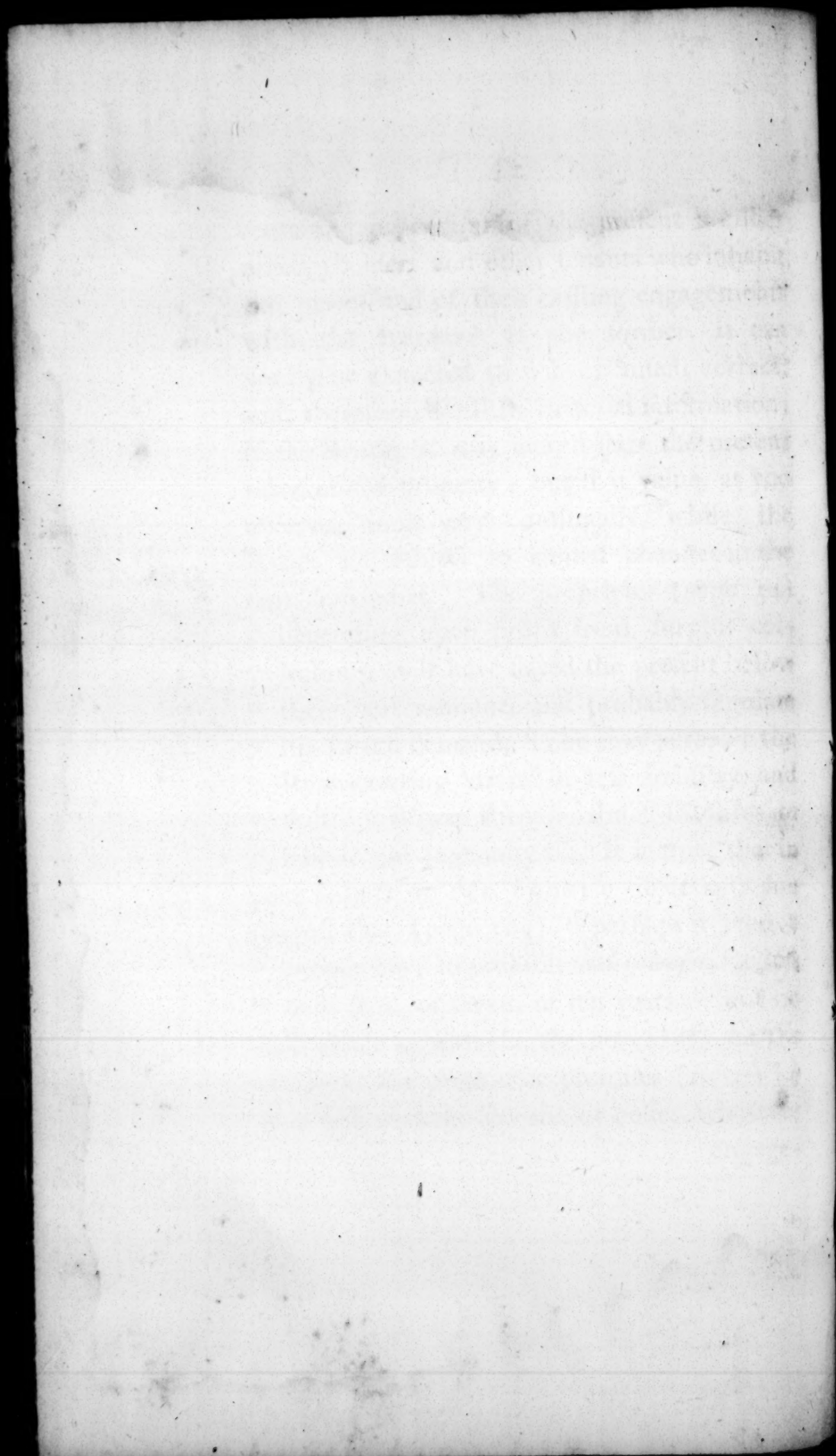
able to calculate upon a sufficient number of emigrants from neighbouring Pergunahs, seduced by promises, or forced by ill-usage, to take shelter in his deserted cottages? — Whence else is Government to obtain the quit-rents from this *freehold* proprietor? The Zemindar has been legally exonerated:—he has sold the land subject to ~~that~~ fixed and perpetual rent, charged in perpetuity; and will probably, if in his power, have alienated the Malikanah also. *the which has been charged on it*

Page 58. You propose the rent-roll of every village to be printed in Calcutta, and the deed to be sealed and issued by the Governor-General in Council; and you furnish us (page 225) with a copy of the cabooleat, or agreement, which, I take for granted, is to be a counterpart of the covenant. Here I am at a loss. Permit me, therefore, to enquire, whether this rent roll “of the exact sum each man is to pay,” be meant merely an enumeration of the Begahs, as mentioned in the cabooleat draft, with the fixed *gross* Jumma, allotted by the Zemindar—or is it to

G

contain,

contain, his account of the present number of copyholders and other tenants who inhabit the place, and of their existing engagements with the Izardar? If the former, it can hardly be expected to convey much correct, and, therefore, but little material information; if the latter, it may indeed state the present value of the property; but that value, as you observe, must vary continually, while the Ryots are subject to annual changes in the rent demanded. The proprietor (page 54) “depending upon profit from surplus collections, will have stated the present below their real amount, and probably regulate his future demand, as he may perceive the Ryot exerting more or less industry and skill.” Where then is the “stimulus to labour and ingenuity?” It is true, that in your answer to Mr. SHORE’s objection, you suggest that (page 105) “perhaps it were a proper law, to prohibit *under-leases*, for less than five, or seven, or ten years;” but no such clause appears in the covenant; on the contrary, the proprietor promises (Art. VI.) to adjust without *abwabs* or *cesses*, whatever engage-



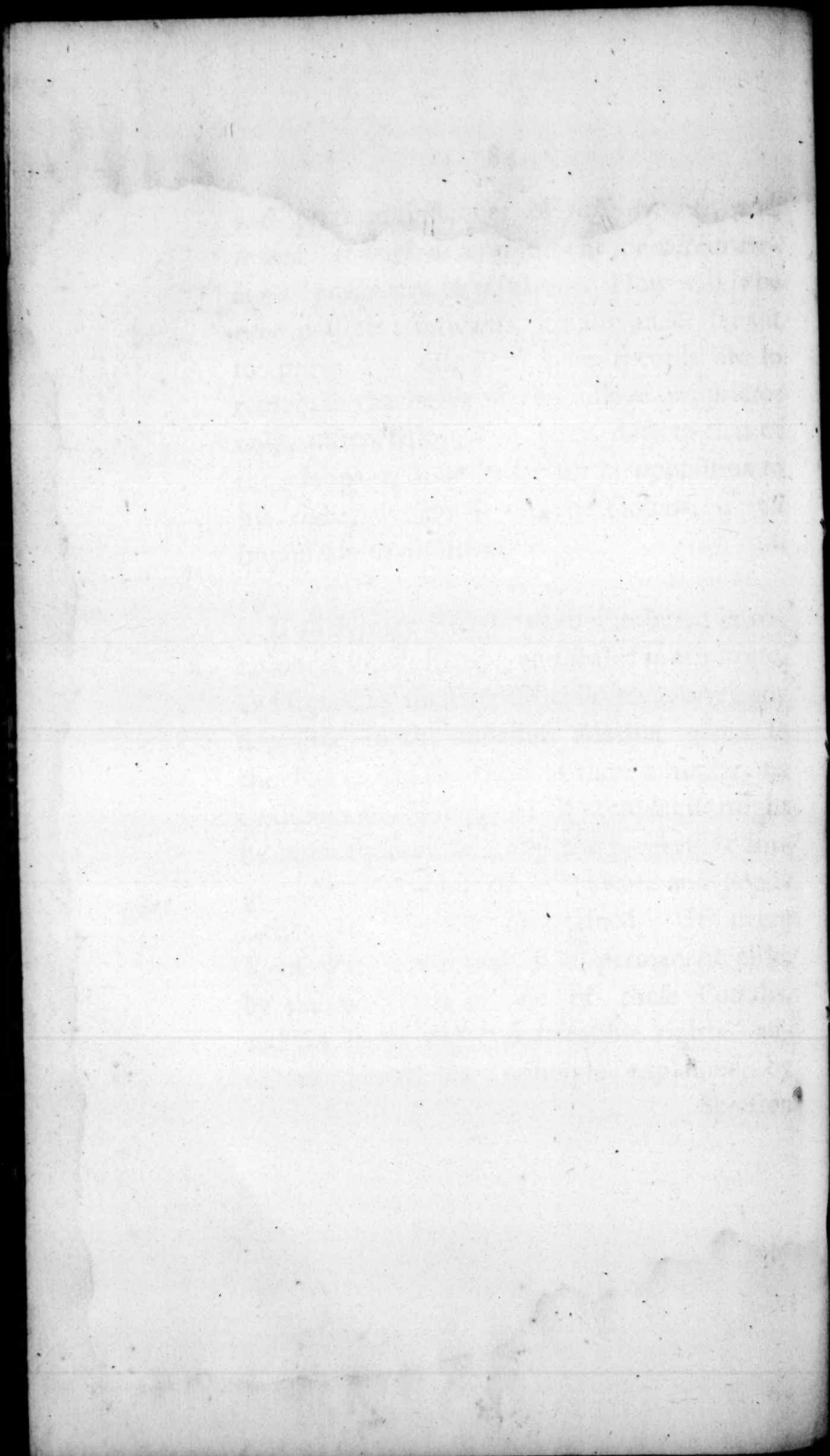
engagements in money, or kind, (page 225)
 “ are mutually entered into *at the beginning*
“ of the year, with the satisfaction of the
 “ Ryots.” He appears no more bound to
 renew but to his own satisfaction, than the
 Ryot to engage upon terms he disapproves:
 he may, therefore, oust the Ryot without
 ceremony, at his pleasure. But it may pos-
 sibly be replied (p. 58) “ it is not the pro-
 “ prietor’s interest to dispossess his tenant,
 and the plan relies upon this ;” true—but how
 often do we see men mistaking their real in-
 terest, and sacrificing it to prejudice, or resent-
 ment? It is the interest of every one in
 society to act by the golden rule, to do as
 he would be done by: and if every one acted
 upon this principle, laws would be totally
 useless. The depraved practice of mankind,
 however, has shewn their absolute necessity,
 as well for protecting the property as the per-
 sons of every man against his neighbour.

You state the number of officers at present
 necessary to watch the farmer, and keep the
 pergunnah accounts, as excessive and useless ;

and produce instances of *false records*, and *breaches of trust*, as an argument for *withdrawing all public records whatever*. How will it be ever possible afterwards, for any under-tenant to prove his title? If these records are to remain in the hands of the village proprietor only, other titles of a prior date to that of the claimant, may be set up in opposition to his right, which it will be tedious, if not impossible to disprove.

If all Ryotty Pottahs were numbered in rotation, printed, stamped, and sealed in triplicate, and signed by the English collector; one copy deposited in the audallut, another given to the Ryot, and the third to the Zemindar, no confusion would happen; all complaints might be instantly decided; and the progressive improvement or decrease of culture and population be annually ascertained. If every Ryot was confirmed in a permanent title, by the possession of one of these Pottahs, and his (page 24) “*indefeasible rights*” admitted (upon the principle explained by

Scrafton



Scrafton * as having governed former practice) and every village proprietor was *bound to grant one*, when demanded, *at the established rent, payable in money*, no Ryot would part with such a voucher but for the value received; he would know the extent of his Jumma; and having paid it, would enjoy the whole surplus of his labours in peace and security †.

— — — †

The Report of the Committee of Directors, quoted by ASIATICUS, in the same paper with your letter to me, is, indeed, a performance which does credit to that body, inasmuch as it shews, that they have paid some attention to this important object of their trust. The sentence he adduces, appears however to want a little explanation.

G 3

“ By

* Shew me this right established positively in the Cabooleat and Sunnud, and then, but not till then, can I consider the Ryot secure.

† Refer to Thoughts 58.

‡ Thus far only appeared in the Chronicle; the rest was suspended by the pressure of the calamitous occurrences which brought on the present war, and was some months afterwards returned by the Editor.

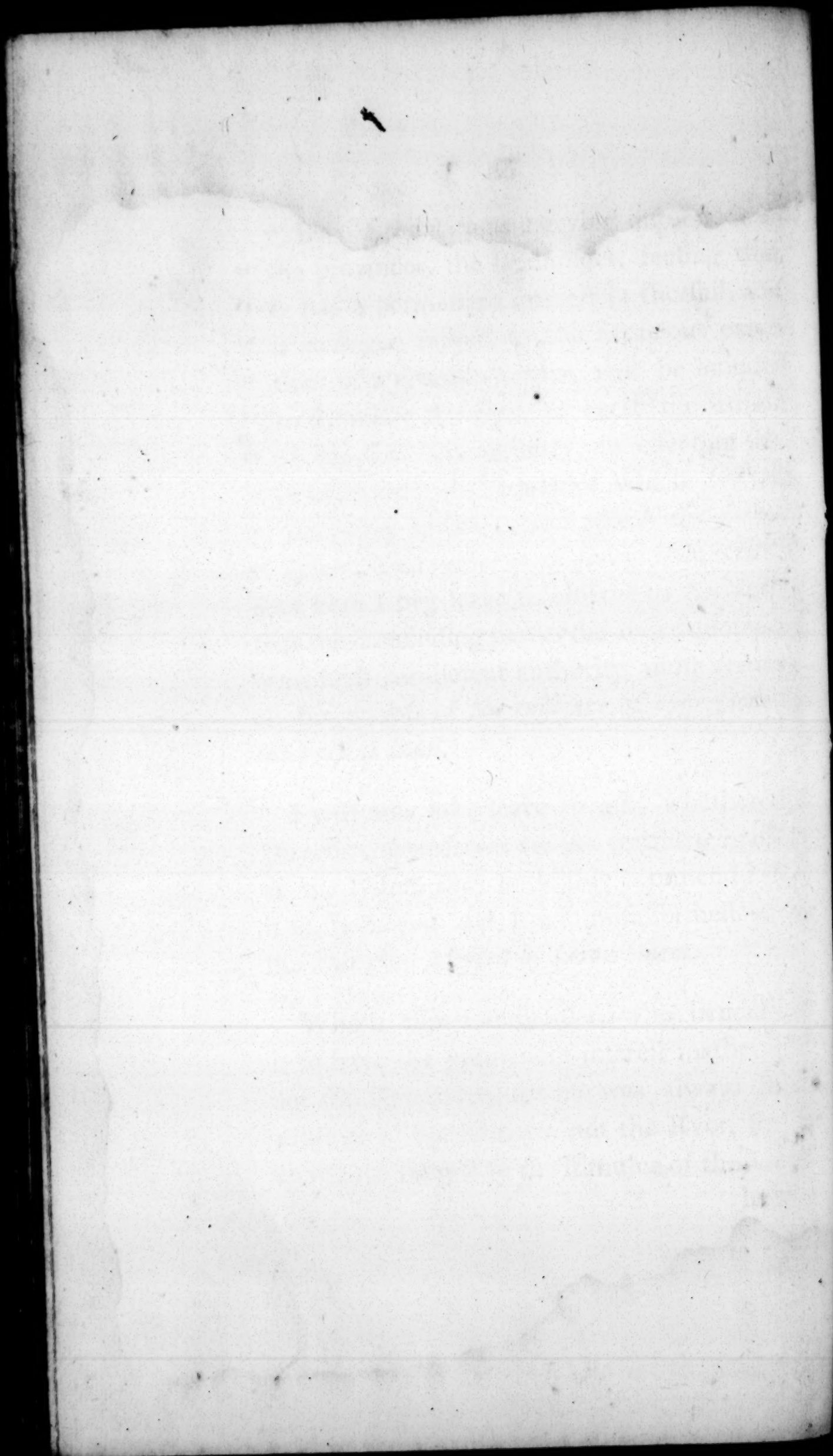
“ By the regulations carrying into effect in
 “ the provinces, the landholder, feeling that
 “ *he* has a permanent interest in the soil, and
 “ is *no longer* subject to the rapacious exac-
 “ tions of a *revenue-farmer*, will be induced
 “ to stimulate the *Ryot* to exert the utmost
 “ of his skill and industry, in effecting im-
 “ provements, the fruits of which *he* will
 “ now enjoy in safety, and *which the former*
 “ *system tended rather to discourage than excite.*”

And here I beg leave to observe to ANGLUS,
 that the concluding part of the above quotation
 from such competent authority, must remove
 all his doubts *of the existence of oppressions to*
the present hour.

I will now take leave to ask, whether the
 Directors themselves are yet complete masters
 of the system they so highly commend? for,
 if so, both you and I are misinformed as to
 the *real plan adopted by Government.*

Who is this Landholder, who henceforth
 is to have the permanent interest in the soil?
 not the Zemindar, for he was always inde-
 pendent of the farmer: not the Ryot, for he
 continues subject to the stimulus of the Land-
 holder.

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holder. How then can the Ryot be secured in the enjoyment of the fruits of his labour, while another has permanent possession of the land which produces them?

Who then is this new personage brought into the Drama? with what privileges and authority is he to be endowed? in what manner is he placed under the controul of Government? how far is he independent of, or subject to the influence of the Zemindar?

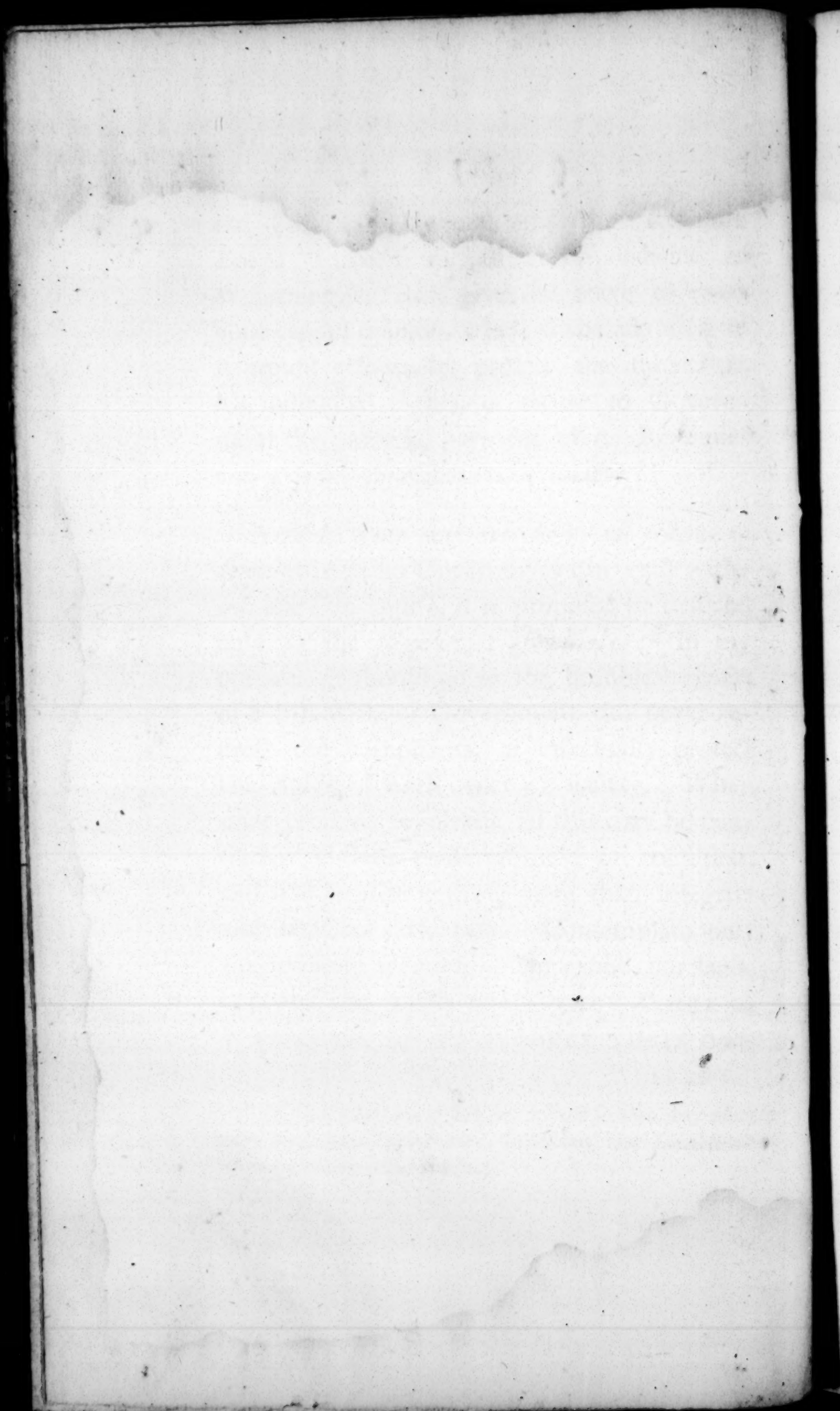
These questions require explicit answers, and the production of the plan itself, as well as of your regulations (which you say have been adopted by Government) before any just confidence can be placed in them, as affording the *best mode of raising a land revenue, and protecting the subjects of our eastern provinces from extortion.*

Nothing would be easier than still more to simplify the collections, by demanding them of four or five great Rajahs, instead of collecting the revenue from the Zemindars and proprietors of each village: this method would completely abridge detail, and leave

the Governor General and the Revenue Board “free from all correspondence of “farming.” But, give me leave to exact your candid opinion, whether the adoption of it would effectually protect the subject in his individual rights, or secure to Government the punctual payment of its Revenues and a just subordination in society?

A detail there *must ever be* in *all systems* of taxation, and no Government can exist without one: in your's, it is proposed to descend only to the *proprietors of villages*:* in my opinion, it should go to the humblest renter of a fish-stall, or Government can never redress the complaints, or effectually protect the rights of each order of society. When once properly regulated, all this may be conducted without embarrassment or confusion, and will require nothing more than integrity and constant attention. Contemplate only the intricate accounts of our excise, our land-tax, and our parish rates—THEY “ARE SO
“FRAMED, AS TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN
“EFFECT.”

* In the regulations, it does not descend so low; they affect only Zemindars, independent Talookdars and Landholders “paying revenue to Government.”



“EFFECT.”* The collections, except in a single instance, are made from the individual who pays, and yet every one knows the amount of his contingent, and Government the quantum expected from him.

I should be extremely sorry to see the experiment of farming the post-tax here, carried into general practice; convinced, as I am, that it must inevitably introduce, in a proportionate degree, the same fraud, collusion and oppression, which yet exist in our Asiatic dominions.

You admit, that a complete investigation has not yet taken place. I hope you are by this time convinced, that *a complete analysis is indispensably necessary, previous to reform and permanent regulation.* The rights of the native cultivators, now in possession of the land, as well by positive as by prescriptive tenures, have not yet been ever minutely inquired into. The Zemindars, you say, are to be declared proprietors of their countries in perpetuity, before it fully appears what portions
of

* Mr. Hastings.—See back.

of it their fore-fathers may have alienated^{*} by Ryotty Pottahs, (in perpetuity) with and without the sanction of former Governments.

The Talookdars, it is true, will take care to establish their claims; but many of them are to be left under the influence of the Zemindars. The inferior copy-holders, and the annual (vagrant) renters, are even to be deprived of the Cannongoë-Office, which though a corrupt one, was still a register of their precarious tenures: their only remaining security now is, to depend upon the *promise* of an *interested landlord*, “ that he will not exact more
“ of them at the end of the year, than he
“ shall have compelled them to engage for
“ at the beginning.”

This surely justifies me in terming your plan imperfect, and pregnant with opportunities of fraud and corruption, though framed, as I am fully persuaded it has been, with the purest and most liberal intentions: nor can I be induced to change my sentiments, without evidence of a very different nature to any
that

See the secret letter to the Directors of
28 Aug 1786 - stating 2 more to be annually
embarked by native agency.

The President of the Association of

1890

Washington, D.C.

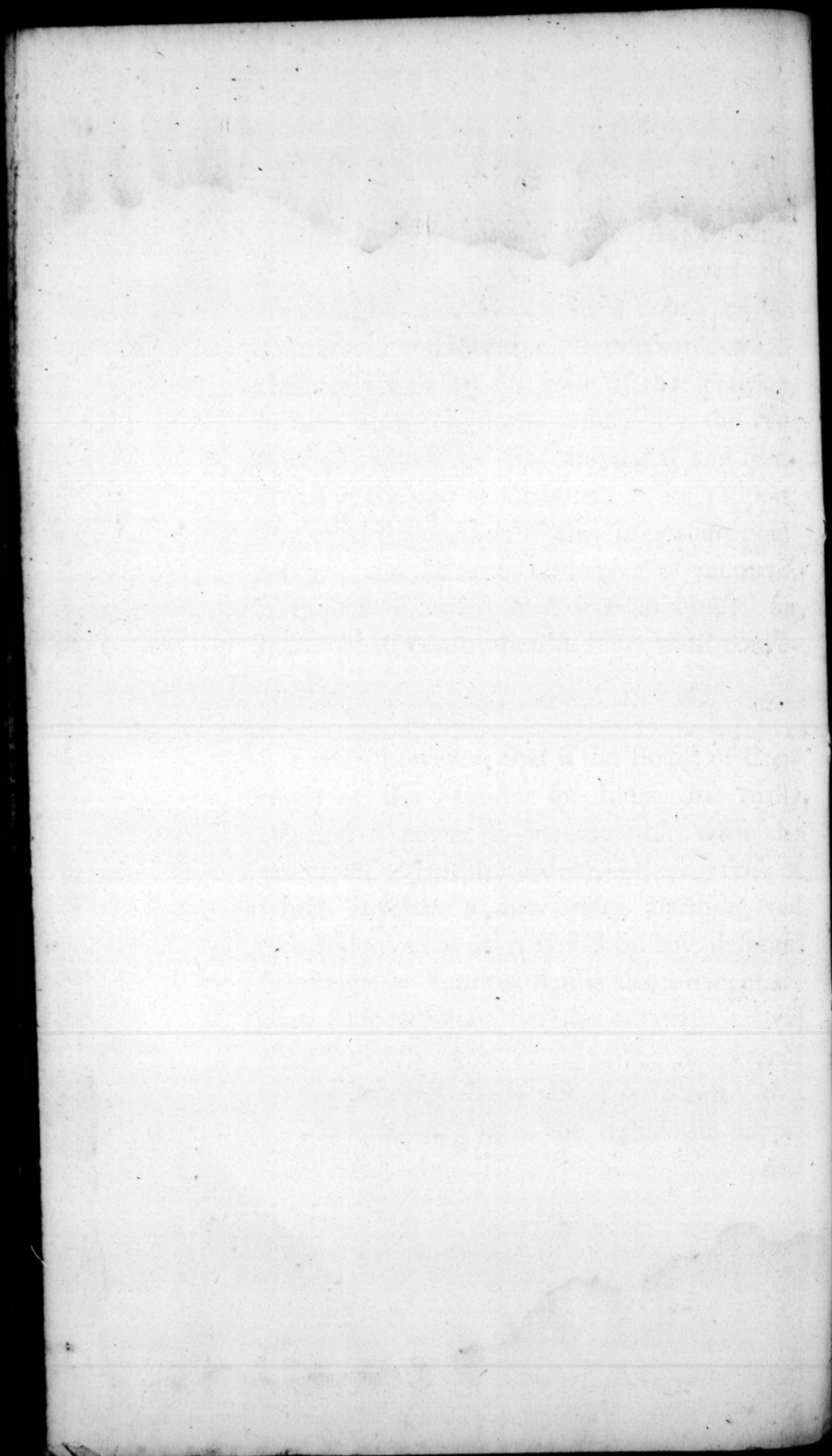
that has hitherto been produced in its favour.

I myself can discern no material difference between the old and the new system, except the interposition of another party between Government and the people, who for some time past have been free from the influence of many of the Zemindars. Adopting the maxim, generally, that "whatever is best administered is the best," I can readily conceive all the beneficial effects your letter exults in, to have followed as the natural consequences of your own care and attention to the execution of your plan within your own jurisdiction: but I must still entertain my suspicions, of the same beneficial effects accruing from an immediate introduction of it into all the districts: and that whenever hereafter there may be a relaxed Government, a corrupt Collector, an imbecile or a rapacious Zemindar, that every oppression which formerly afflicted the lower class of natives, they will again be subject to, in as great, or greater degree than ever.

I can

I can by no means admit with ASIATICUS, that Sir C. W. B. ROUSE has proved the Ryots to be *mere tenants* for a *term*: on the contrary, I consider that Gentleman's whole chain of reasoning, in favor of that position, to have been completely refuted by the very firmaun which he has translated and produced at the end of his book, in its support. But even the decision of this important point merges, and becomes no longer of moment, if the Government is "free to chuse" for India what constitution it finds most convenient.

I trust, however, that if the Board of Controul, or the Minister for India, has really assumed a power so incompatible with the principles of British freedom,—the exercise of which involves a duty more alarming and tremendous than is possess'd by any despotic Sovereign in Europe, Russia alone excepted; that, whoever may presume to grasp it, will have seriously reflected upon the importance of the measure he is about to adopt: that he is determining upon the rights and happiness



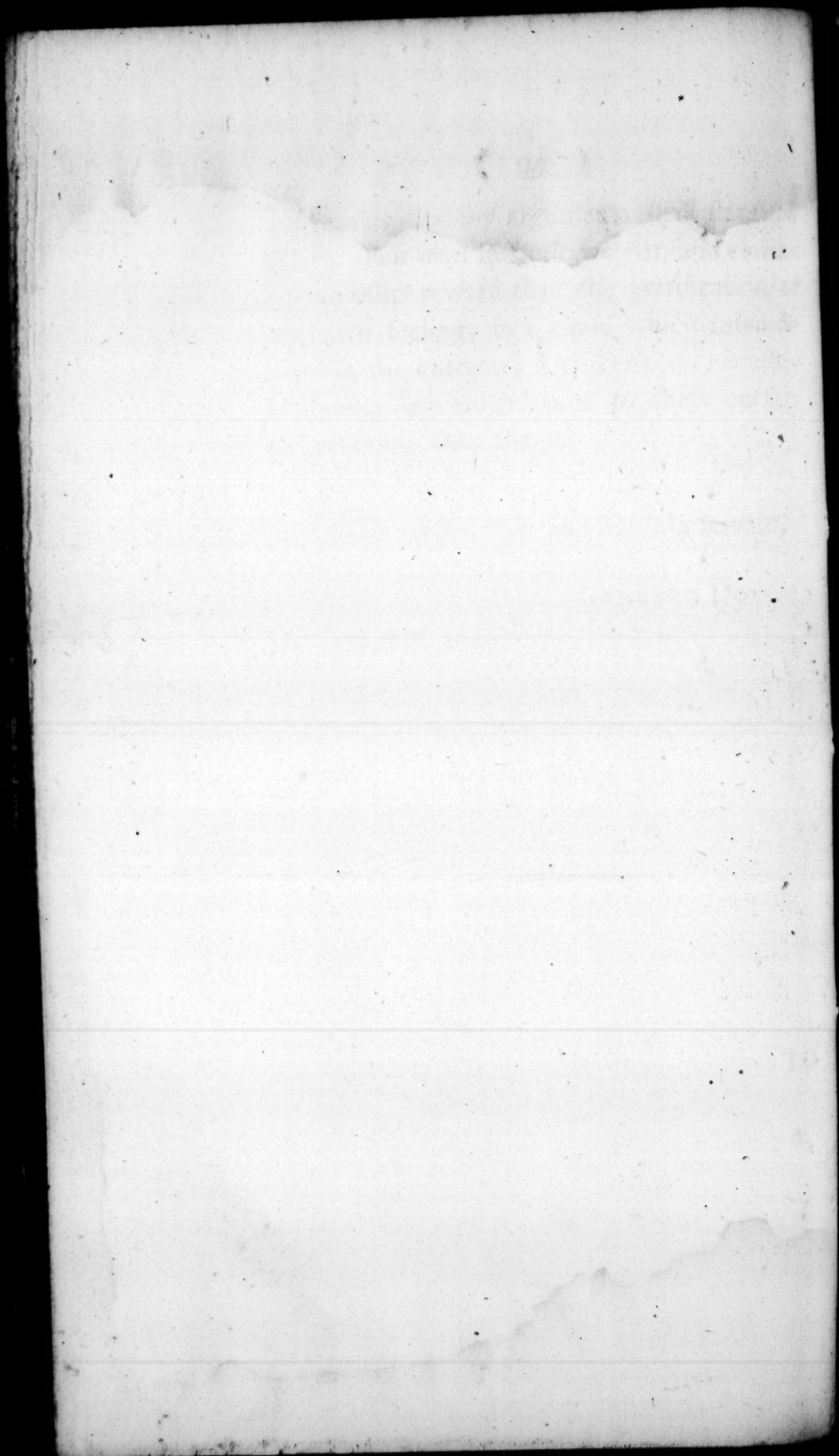
ness of helpless existing millions, and upon that of their posterity : and, that he is responsible for this sacred trust, if not to the legislature of the mother country, yet to his own conscience, and to a still higher tribunal : and, therefore, since the measure was originally adopted, by way of experiment, for a determinate period ; since many of the Zemindars, who are to be the principal parties interested, appear hitherto averse to adventuring upon it in perpetuity ; and that no material objection has been stated, to waiting the result of a temporary trial, during which time the most minute and comprehensive analysis of our possessions might easily be obtained ;—from these considerations, it is ardently hoped, that the Minister will think it prudent to pause, and make use of the intervening period, in obtaining that information, which both Sir JOHN SHORE and the Board of Revenue have deemed indispensably essential, to the attainment of those happy consequences which were expected by Lord CORNWALLIS and yourself, from the immediate adoption of your resolutions in perpetuity.

Meaning that my arguments shall stand or fall by their own intrinsic weight, and claiming no other reward than the gratification of my own feelings in a cause which interests them in the extreme, I perceive no necessity of signing any other name to these cursory observations, than that of

Your well wisher and humble servant,

GURREEB DOSS.

the 27th Oct. 1792.



No. 11. LETTER V.

TO THOMAS LAW, Esq.

The character which I have assumed of
* Vaqueel, for our poor, oppressed fellow
Subjects, the Ryots of Bengal, Behar, and
Benares, renders it an indispensable duty,
that I neglect nothing which appears likely
to assist the cause I have espoused. My
clients are the millions, from whose "aggre-
gate labour," the splendor of our Govern-
ment, and the unrivalled superiority of our
Eastern Commerce, draw all their resources.
I am obliged, therefore, to make farther use
of your publication.

Your intelligent correspondent (quoted
page 26 of the introduction to Resources) in
his letter, dated Calcutta, 21st of July, 1790,
justly

* Ambassador, Patron, Solicitor.

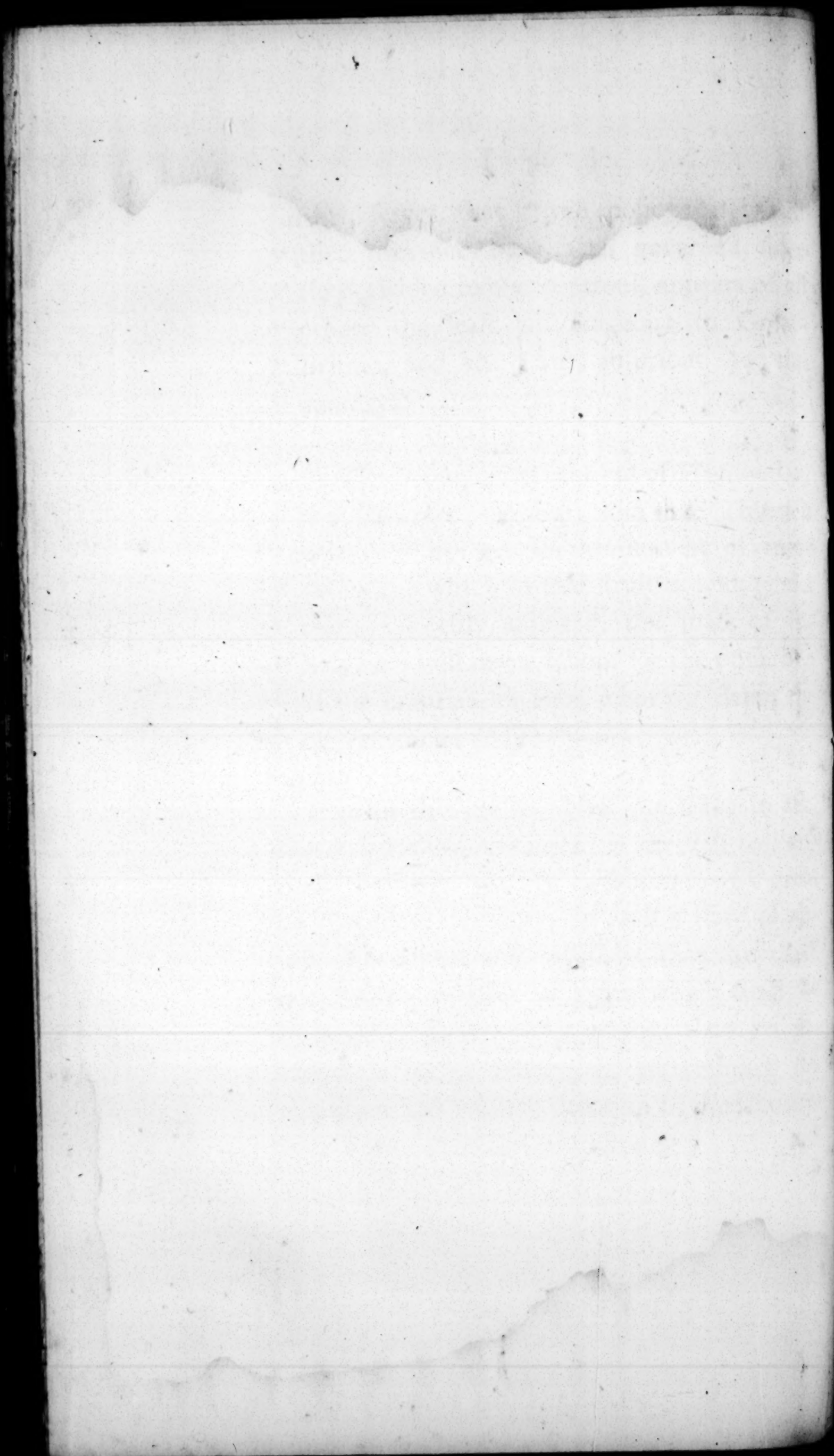
justly observes, that “ the policy by which
 “ these provinces have been governed, since
 “ they yielded to our controul, appears of all
 “ others the least advantageous to Great-
 “ Britain, and the most injurious to this
 “ country.”

“ The wants of the natives of Hindoostan,
 “ it is said, are but few ; and that” (himself
 quoting) “ beyond the attainment of mere
 “ existence, which in this fruitful and genial
 “ climate is easily acquired, the mass of in-
 “ habitants will never labour for the possession
 “ of the luxuries, or even what we deem the
 “ conveniencies of life.”——

Is it for this reason, give me leave to ask,
 that a British Government is advised, to con-
 tinue the lower class of inhabitants of a great
 and populous territory, in such a state of ab-
 ject dependence and *vassallage*, that they shall
 not “ dare to issue a groan which shall be
 “ heard ?” Is it for this reason, that no at-
 tempt is to be made, for ascertaining the
 condition and relative situation of the labourer
 and

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and the husbandman, to the other classes of society ; that they are indiscriminately, as far at least as their property is concerned, to be disposed of in whole villages, like the peasants of Hungary and Russia, and that even the number of slaves which inhabit them are not to be taken account of in valuing the transfer ?

Shall it continue to be the scandal and reproach of our Government, that while *
 “ there are scarce two gentlemen in the service (strange, if this *be* true !) who exactly agree, either as to the rights of the Zemindars, the quantum of revenue which the country ought to pay, or as to the best PERIOD FOR WHICH THE LAND OUGHT TO BE ‘LEASED’ for the mutual advantage of the natives and the Company”—that the advantage of the *superior* natives only should have been the object of enquiry ? and, that the attempt to establish at the same time the ease, comfort, and security of the *rest of the people*, should have been abandoned,

H

as

* Morning Chronicle the 1st October,

as useless and superfluous labour, by the whole body of revenue servants upon the Bengal Establishment, and their interests left to the tedious and expensive protection of the Audulluts, or the caprice of the Zemindars?

If this has really been the case, it is high time to make another appeal; and to investigate, in the cause of humanity, the “RIGHT” of the Company to dispose thus of the labour and property of our fellow creatures; who, however far removed from ourselves by situation, religion, manners, and customs, are, nevertheless, entitled as fellow *subjects*, to share in the benefits of the British Constitution—at the least, to enjoy unmolested liberty and property, in common with ourselves.

But, waving for the present, the question of Right; your own correspondent has ably shewn the Impolicy of withholding the power of bettering their condition, from the lower classes of society.—“The experience of past ages *contradicts* the assertion, that they will
“ never

"— in forming a government for our possessions
in India, we must not take as our precedents,
the solitary examples of tyrants and usurpers;
but, where we find no written law, should
endeavor to make that Law hereafter, which
has been known as usage under the best of
the native princes. Rome 78.

in forming a government for the people
in which, as we have seen, the
people are to have a share in the
management of the affairs of the
state. The people are to be
the source of all power, and
the only check upon the
executive and legislative
branches of the government.
The people are to be the
guardians of the constitution,
and the only power to
alter it.

“ never labour to attain possession of the conveniencies and luxuries of life, for *the wants of all men encrease in proportion to their means, and every new enjoyment is the parent of a new desire.*”

“ Insure, then (he recommends) to the Hindoostanny the product of his labour and ingenuity; teach him to exchange the surplus for his own benefit in multiplying his enjoyments; and, I hazard little in affirming, that his propensities will be found similar to those of mankind in general, notwithstanding the influence of an enervating climate and tyrannical religion. What a prospect does this open to the consumption of the manufactures of Great-Britain, provided they could be introduced at a reasonable rate, and paid for with the produce of Bengal!”

You tell us, a little dogmatically, that Government have adopted your moccerry plan.” It may possibly, then, be too late to expect a revival of it, or I should take the

liberty of refering the Board of Controul to the sentiments of people upon the spot, apparently well informed, and candid in their decision, who * could not be deterred from publishing their opinions, and reasoning with the Administration abroad, upon every part of the proposed plan and subsidiary regulations.

One of them, under the signature of "Investigator," in the Calcutta Magazine for December last, discusses with great freedom the right of Government to decide upon the question; and points out the gross inconsistency of subsequent interference and regulation, after having abandoned the landed property to the Zemindars for ever.

"Of these regulations," viz. to resume the rent-free lands, or estates alienated without

* The Editors of some of the Bengal news-papers, who are supposed to publish under particular patronage, refused to insert the letters of "Agricola," another writer upon this subject, who, therefore, has printed a pamphlet discussing it at large, under the title of "General Observations, as to the Mode of levying and assessing the Land-Tax in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa."

and that they are not the only
ones who have been so treated.
The Government has not
yet received any material evidence
to show that they are guilty of
any crime. They have been held
in custody for some time, but
no charges have been brought
against them. The Government
is now trying to get more
evidence against them. It is
hoped that they will be
prosecuted for their crimes.

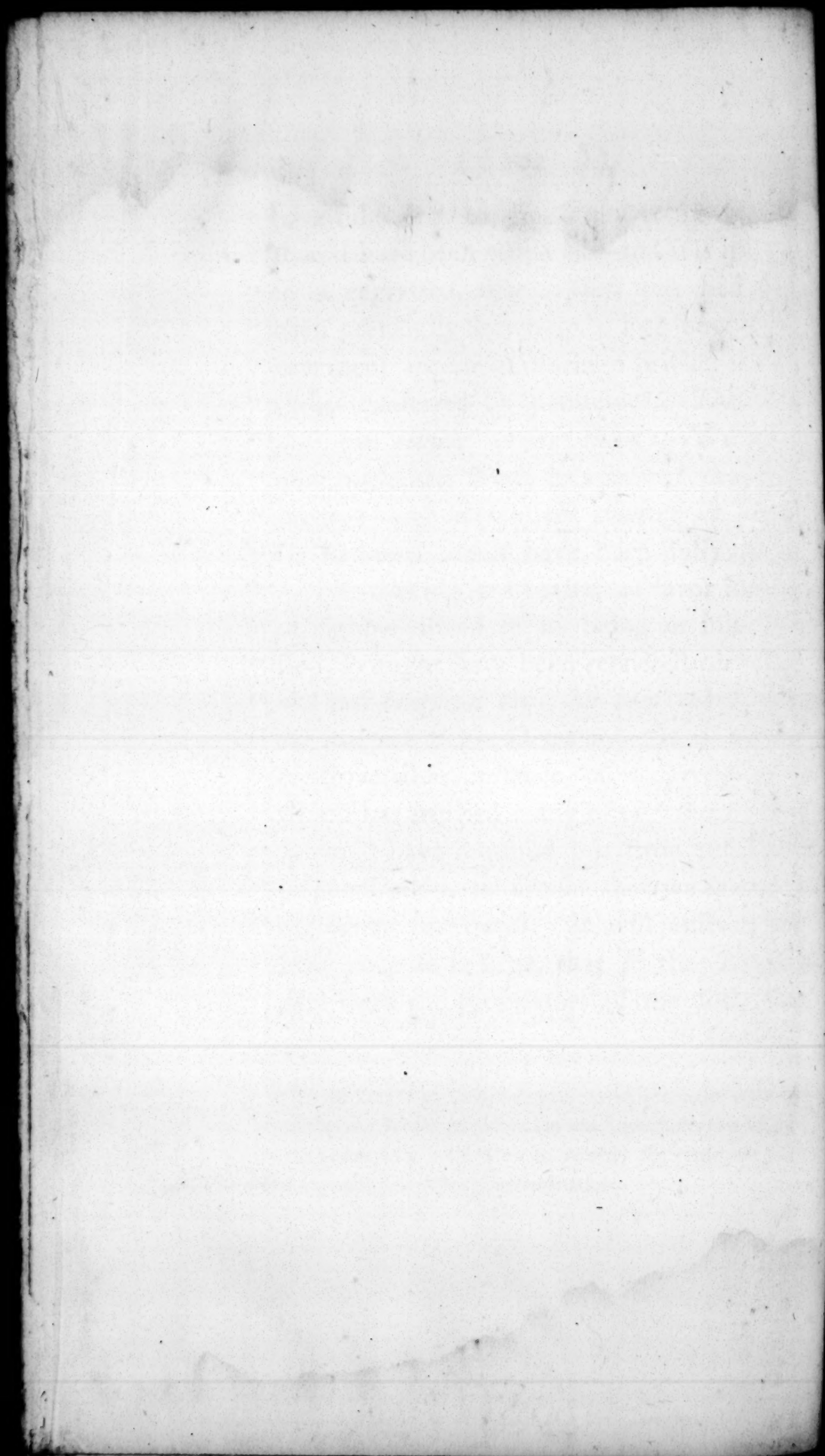
It is not known whether or not
they will be tried. The Government
is now trying to get more
evidence against them. It is
hoped that they will be
prosecuted for their crimes.

out any reserve of land-tax or quit-rent, he observes, " that they are not the less exceptionable, because Government have not proposed any material pecuniary advantage to themselves by the adoption of them, but because they have held out an advantage to a few individuals, which ought to have been extended to every landholder from the Zemindar to the Ryot.—Indeed, it is the Ryot who suffers most *at present* ; for whatever formerly was the usage, at present" (under the mocurrery plan!) the poor Ryot is the only person who pays " the piper."

This writer scruples not to pronounce, in the face of the executive Government, that " the fact is, a gross mistake has been committed, in declaring the Zemindar to be proprietor of the soil in virtue of his being Zemindar ; a mistake, as unnecessary as it now proves a stumbling block to themselves. Whatever might have been their rights, they had so long been denied the exercise of them, that they would willingly
" have

“ have subscribed to almost any terms which
 “ should have been tendered—and it is highly
 “ to be regretted, that *explicit ones* had not
 “ been previously drawn up. For now Go-
 “ vernment appear to infringe privileges and
 “ rights conferred by themselves. *The mea-*
 “ *sure was clearly wrong timed:—*We have
 “ now made the *Zemindar's interest to oppose*
 “ *our own, and that of the country at large.*
 “ Government would have been fully justi-
 “ fied, in making it a matter of favor instead
 “ of right—instead of its being an injurious
 “ step, it might have been rendered *the wisest*
 “ *and most beneficial that has been taken since*
 “ *our accession of the Dewanny.* It is an in-
 “ controvertible instance of a *precipitation*
 “ which has marked many of our measures.*
 “ It could have required but little reflection
 “ or penetration, to foresee that we were *ty-*
 “ *ing up our own hands.* It will answer but
 “ little purpose to urge, that *if the Zemin-*
 “ *dars were the proprietors of the soil, that*
 “ Govern-

* In his Lordship's idea, delay appeared pregnant with still
 greater evils: see the proclamation which concludes this subject,
 for the precautions since taken to remedy the consequences of
such timidity, apparently necessary, determination.



" Government were bound in duty to ac-
 " knowledge them as such : because, not on-
 " ly our own conduct during these twenty-
 " five or twenty-six years, but that of the
 " former Sovereigns of the country, has been
 " such, as to render it *a greater injustice to*
 " *admit their claims in the unqualified mode we*
 " *have done*, than it would have been to
 " acknowledge them under express *restric-*
 " *tions and limitations*, or even *than wholly de-*
 " *nying them*. The most that can be ad-
 " vanced in its favor, is, that it was intend-
 " ed well, but was not sufficiently digested
 " to answer its end."

I have already, Sir, borne concurrent testi-
 mony with this sagacious observer, as to the
 purity of your intentions; and heartily ap-
 plaud those of Earl CORNWALLIS, and of
 the Ministry here, who have at his instance
 sent orders, however prematurely, for con-
 firming this arrangement. But, after what
 has been exposed of the inefficacy and num-
 berless destructive consequences of rendering
 the plan, in its present state, perpetual; I
 cannot

cannot prevail upon myself to abandon the hope, that the ultimate, irrevocable fiat may yet be arrested; and, since the agreement itself, as you have shewn, was expressly conditional, that its confirmation will be suspended, until complete investigation shall have enabled the Indian Administration to dispense *ample and impartial justice and protection to every class of the natives*: among whom, those who most particularly stand in need of relief, are the, till now, neglected and abandoned clients of

GURREEB DOSS.

The 12th Nov. 1792.

No. 22

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

cannot detail upon any other subject, that the ultimate, necessary fact may not be attained; and, since the agreement which, as you have shown, was a specific consideration that is consideration will be suspended until complete investigation shall have enabled the Indian Administration to dispose of the matter, and to give protection to every part of the country, among which, that of the people, and in view of which, the law, neglected and abandoned.

C. J. D. D.

Nov. 17, 1872

No. 12.

L E T T E R VI.

To the COURT of DIRECTORS for the
Affairs of the East-India Company.

The former Letters of GURREEB DOSS
will doubtless have attracted your serious at-
tention ; since the subject they treat of, not
only involves the welfare and happiness, but
the rights and privileges of your Indian sub-
jects, as well as the credit of your govern-
ment and the permanent prosperity of your
possessions there.

From a perusal of those letters, it will have
appeared, uncontradicted by a single atom of
I evidence,

evidence, that a very great majority of the natives of that country, are totally neglected by the lately established Revenue Plan, and abandoned to their destiny as mere vassals of the Zemindars. And this, in the face of a solemn Act of the Legislature,* which expressly ordained, that your Court “ should forth-
 “ with enquire into, and fully investigate,
 “ the grievances and oppressions, and all cir-
 “ cumstances relative thereto, which had un-
 “ justly deprived of, or *compelled to abandon*
 “ *and relinquish their lands,*” not only “ the
 “ Rajahs, Zemindars, Polygars and Talook-
 “ dars,” but “ all other native Landholders
 “ within the British territories in India.”

You are further directed, by the same act,
 “ effectually to redress the same, in such
 “ manner as shall be consistent with justice,
 “ and *the laws and customs of the country;*
 “ and to settle and permanently establish,
 “ upon principles of moderation, *according to*
 “ *the Laws and Constitution of India,*† the
 “ permanent

* Twenty-fourth G. III. Sect. 39.

† “ The natives ought not to be governed by the laws of
 “ England.” Lind’s opinion, Bruce, 4to. p. 74.

“ The

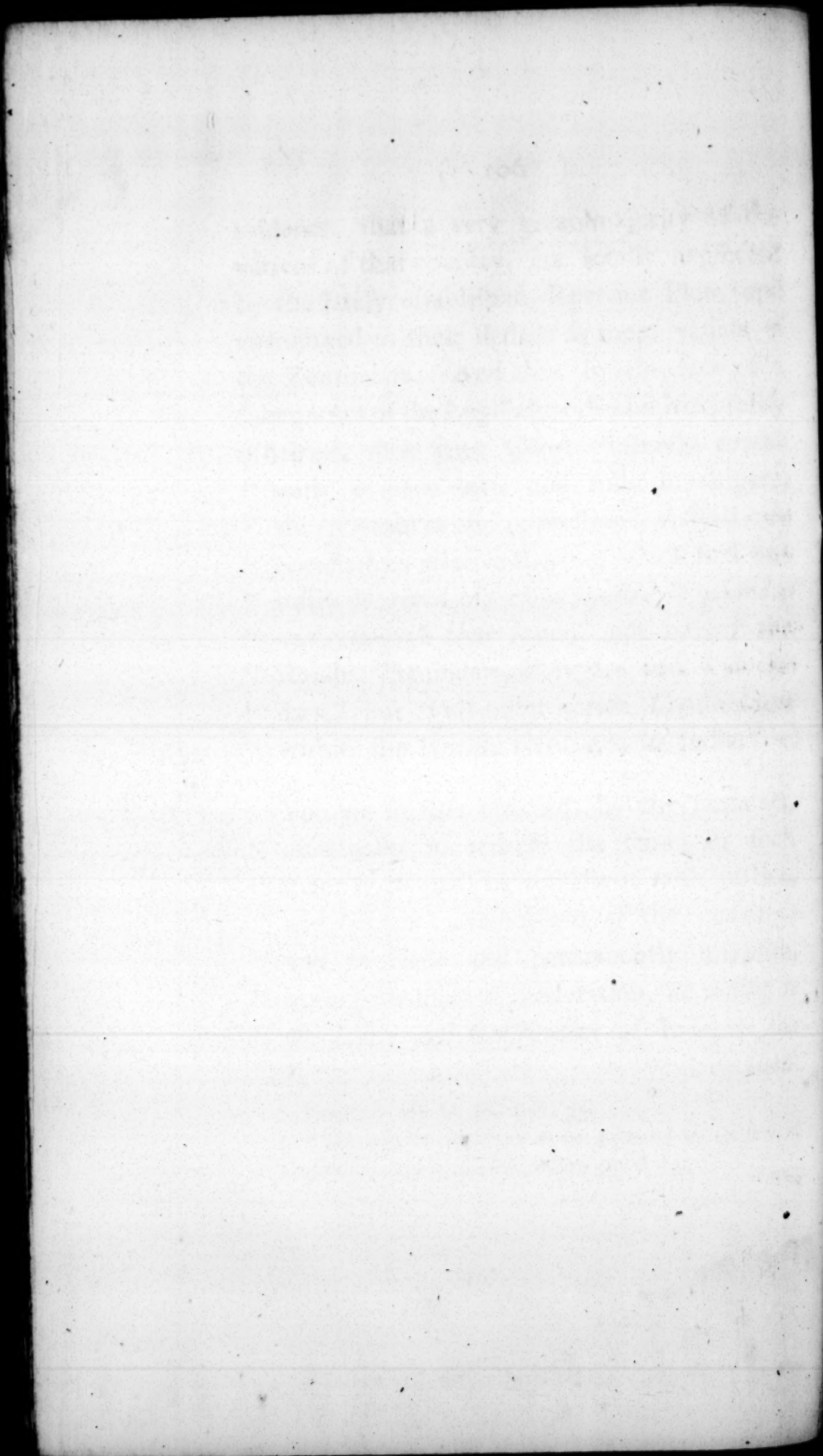
1872

Resolved, that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated for the purchase of land for the establishment of a national park in the State of California.

And it is further resolved, that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated for the purchase of land for the establishment of a national park in the State of California, and that the same be paid out of the Treasury of the United States.

And it is further resolved, that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated for the purchase of land for the establishment of a national park in the State of California, and that the same be paid out of the Treasury of the United States.

And it is further resolved, that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated for the purchase of land for the establishment of a national park in the State of California, and that the same be paid out of the Treasury of the United States.



“ permanent rules by which their respective
 “ tributes, rents and services shall in future
 “ be rendered and paid to the United Com-
 “ pany.”

Mr. ROUSE, though expressly employed to clear the ground, and perhaps an abler servant could not have been selected for the purpose, has certainly failed in establishing the Zemindars as the proprietors of the land by hereditary tenure. ^x On the contrary, Mr. GRANT's assertion remains uncontradicted by evidence, that in the Nizam's country, where stronger vestiges remain of the ancient laws and customs of Hindostan, *the Prince and the Hus-*

I 2

bandman

“ The Government of the Hindoos has been absolute, while
 “ that of the Mahomedan Conquerors have been still more so;
 “ and yet both have preserved the rights of the Zemindars *and*
 “ *of the Ryots*. And so far were the Ryots from considering
 “ this species of government to be an evil, they looked up to it
 “ as the only one which could protect them against the oppres-
 “ sions of the Zemindars and inferior officers: therefore any
 “ *immature* plan of reformation, foreign to the character of the
 “ people, may have a tendency to deprive Great Britain of its
 “ new dominions.” Ibid. p. 78.

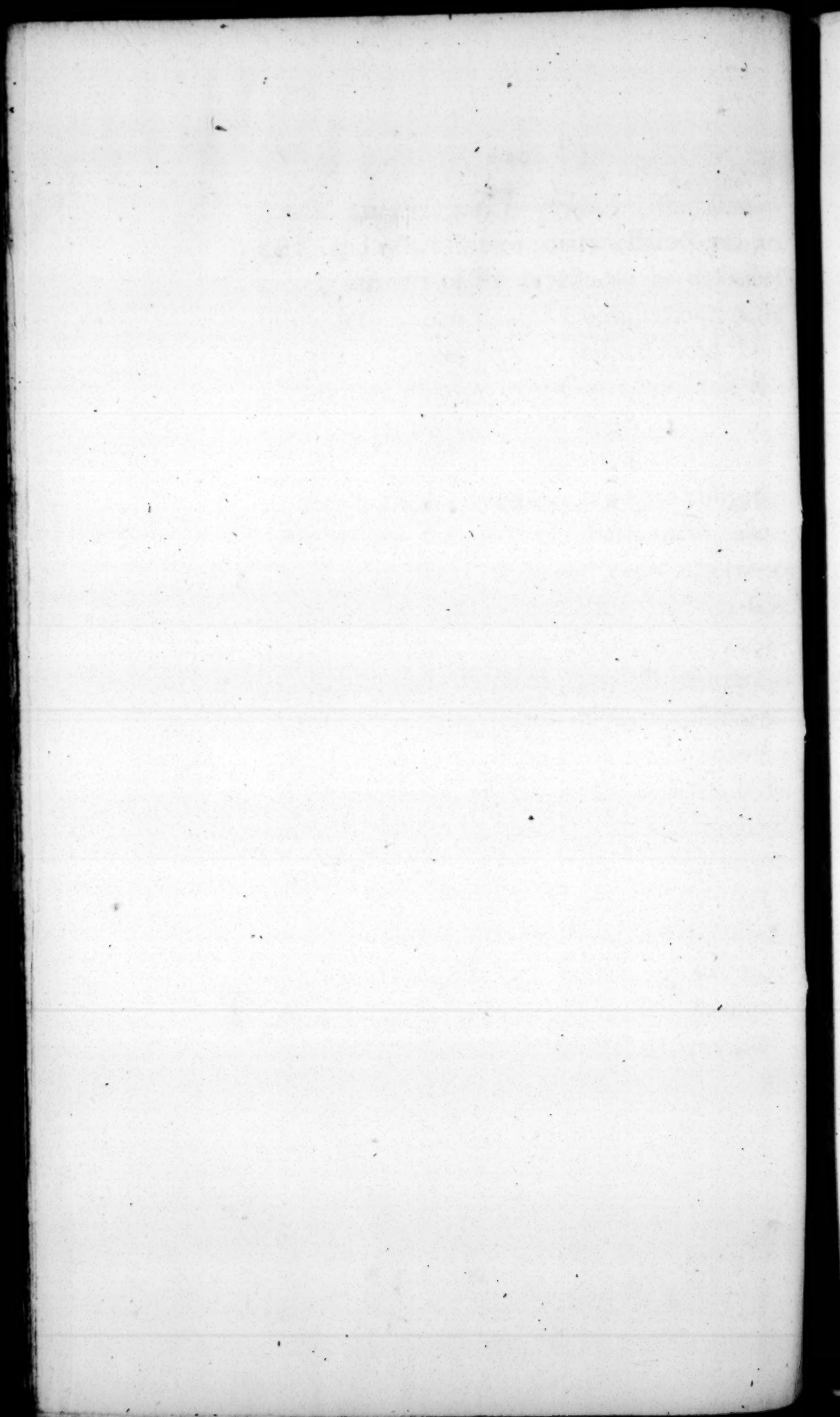
“ The natives of India have long had a Constitution of their
 “ own. Ibid. p. 85.

x See p. 85. an innumerable objection to his whole theory - candidly brought forward by himself: and never tho in his opinion it was, substantially invalidated.

bandman are the only proprietors: the Zemindars, and other intermediate characters, are merely farmers of the revenues: as described in the letter upon Bengal Consultations, dated the 5th of June, 1776, and adduced by a Committee of your own Court, in their able report upon the culture of Sugar.

Although this authority, and the obligation imposed by the Act of Parliament above cited, may seem to have been afterwards weakened by the sixth section of the same act, which places the “superintendence, direction and controul over all matters of revenue in the Board of Commissioners,” yet, so long as the Company retain possession of the territory, and enjoy the benefits of the revenue which it yields, I should presume, that with you, in part at least, must rest the responsibility for any breach of this act of the Legislature, as well as for the consequences of a measure which appears to be pushed forwards with unnecessary precipitation, against the conviction of the very person
who

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who has been appointed Governor General for the purpose of carrying it into effect.

I trust, therefore, that you will continue to regard, as part of your most important duty, a minute attention to every measure which promises, in the smallest degree, to affect the interest of the Company or its subjects: and for this reason, be inclined to think favourably of every attempt to elucidate a subject so highly important to both.

GURREEB DOSS.

15th Nov. 1792.

No. 13.

L E T T E R VII.

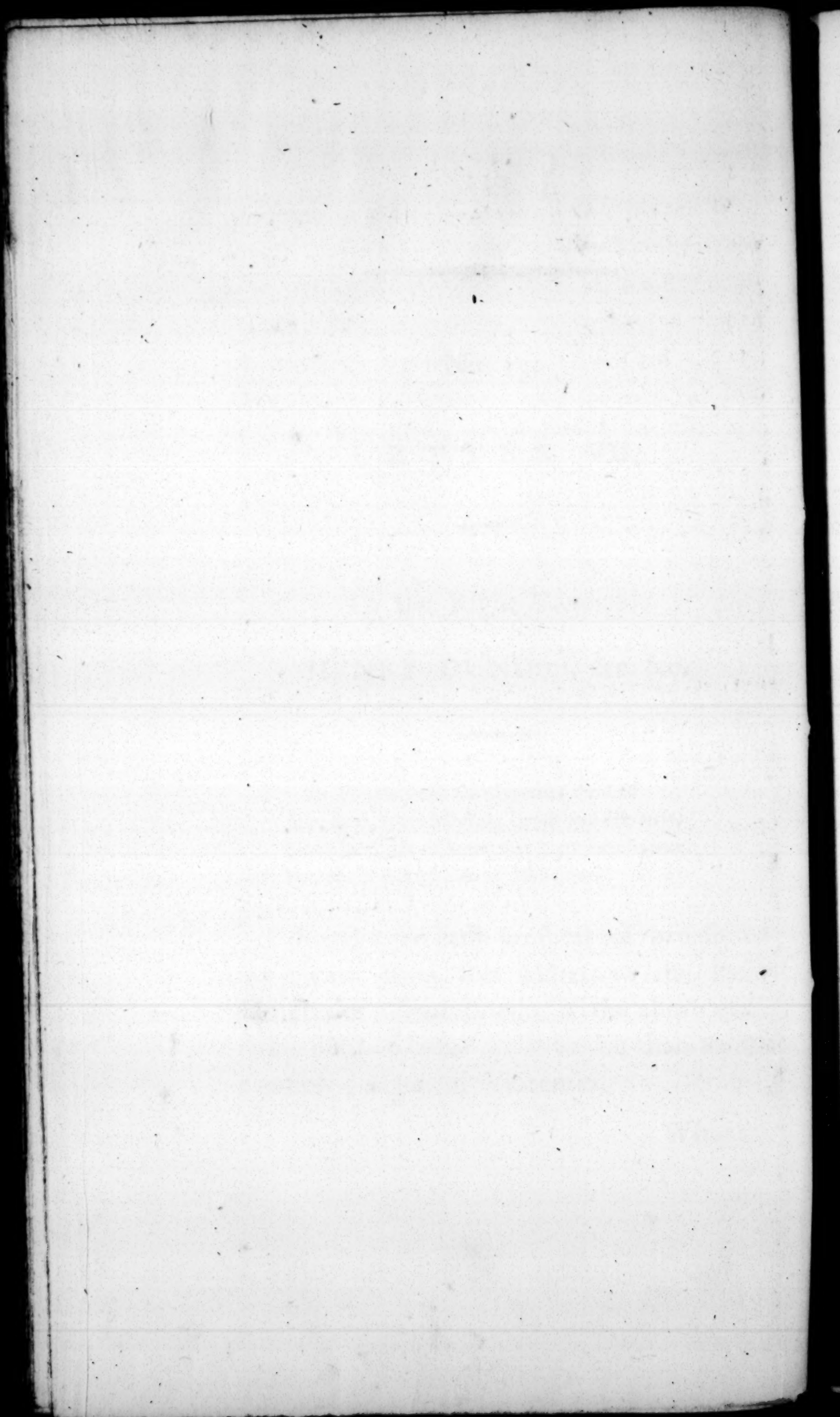
To the Right Honorable

HENRY DUNDAS, &c. &c.

“ Of Government the properties t'unfold
May seem *in me* affecting speech and discourse,
Since I am not to know that your own science
Exceeds in this the lists of all advice,”

I should have little prospect of benefit to
my clients, from this address to the India
Minister of Great-Britain, if the above quo-
tation did not better apply to you than to the
plausible delegate of Vincentio.

Whoever



Whoever has taken the trouble of perusing your report to the House of Commons upon India affairs, or has heard you when they have been the subject of debate, must readily admit, with me, that scarcely any man in this kingdom, who has not served in that country, has taken equal pains, or endeavored more to qualify himself than you have done, for the high and important station which you fill in that department.

It must also be acknowledged, to your honor, that no part of the duty of that station, seems more to have engaged your attention, than the perfecting a system for collecting the revenues of our territorial possessions there. Your choice of an old revenue servant as the first Secretary to the Board of Controul, indicated an early conviction of the necessity and importance of obtaining every possible information upon that subject.

The instructions sent abroad with Lord CORNWALLIS at his nomination to the supreme Government, afford another instance

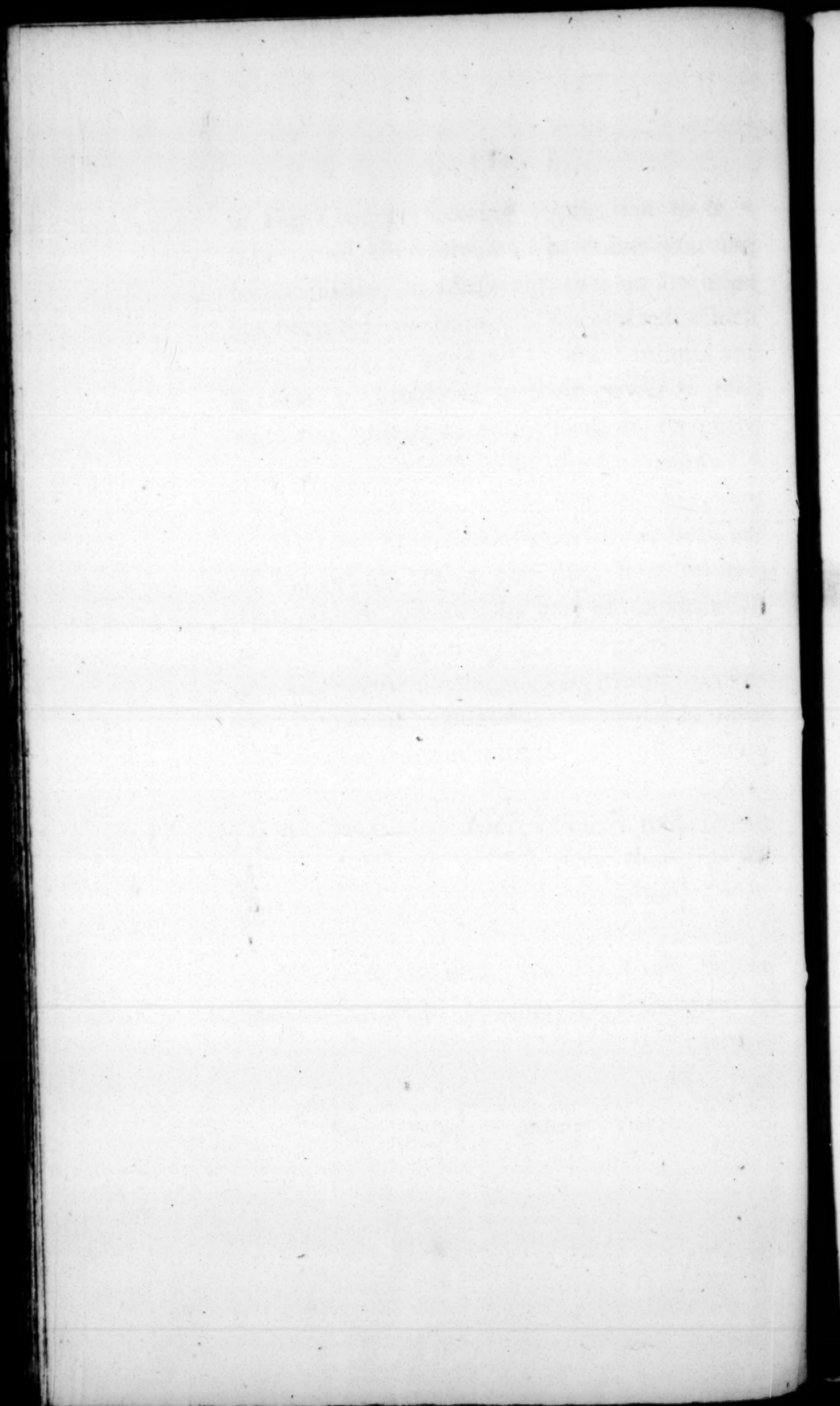
of the same persevering application to it. *
 The world, therefore, will be doing you but barely justice, in admitting, that no attention has been spared, no measure neglected, which appeared likely to obtain the most minute and accurate information, in their power to give, from the official revenue servants formerly, and till now, employed by the Company.

We have been told by yourself, at the close of last session, that a plan had been framed, and put in practice by way of experiment, which having met with the approbation of the Government-general, you meant to render permanent throughout the provinces under the Bengal Administration.

We have lately been publicly told by the principal framer of this plan, that the fiat has actually past for its confirmation,

We were also told, that Sir JOHN SHORE had consented to become the instrument of carrying

* See also Mr. Bruce's Collection, since published under Mr. Dundas's patronage. —Anderson's View, &c.



[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

carrying this plan into general practice, and establishing it in perpetuity. If all this be really fact, the die is cast ; “ the bow is bent, “ we must abide the shaft.”——

We have been also told, in the same paragraph with the last article of intelligence, that no two gentlemen in the service agreed either as to the rights of the Zemindars, the quantum of revenue which the country ought to pay, or as to the period for which the land ought to be leased, for the mutual benefit of the natives and the Company.

It has then been determined, to cut the gordian knot, which, though it might not have been expected you yourself should have been able to untie ; yet surely a reasonable hope might have been entertained, that some of the many professional men whom you have consulted, would have been competent to loosen, at least, if not entirely to disentangle.

I am not going in this letter to call in question the assertion, however bold and extraordinary,

traordinary, *that Administration is free to adopt any constitution or form of Government it may judge most expedient for our eastern provinces ;* nor to arraign the legislature, if it be so, for having with seeming indifference, committed such unbounded and unconstitutional power to any Ministry whatever.

Nor will I pass, perhaps an altogether unmerited, indiscriminate censure upon the service, for having overlooked what I am now laying before you. My business is with the measure and its probable consequences, not with any set of men, or the presumptive motives of their conduct.

In several of the preceding letters I have endeavored to shew, not merely in my own opinion, but from the most unquestionable authorities, the incompetency of the mocracy plan, as it is called, for securing comfort and happiness to the lower class of the natives of India, and protecting them in their just rights and property against the apprehended continuance of vexation and oppression.

I have



I have, I think at least, clearly proved, that, however widely Gentlemen may have disagreed as to the rights of the superior class, the Zemindars ; yet, that certain necessary, indefeasible rights and privileges appertain to the Ryot, Husbandman, or Cultivator of the soil, which are universally admitted to have been hitherto held sacred, as far back as any trace has been discovered of the revenue practice in that country.

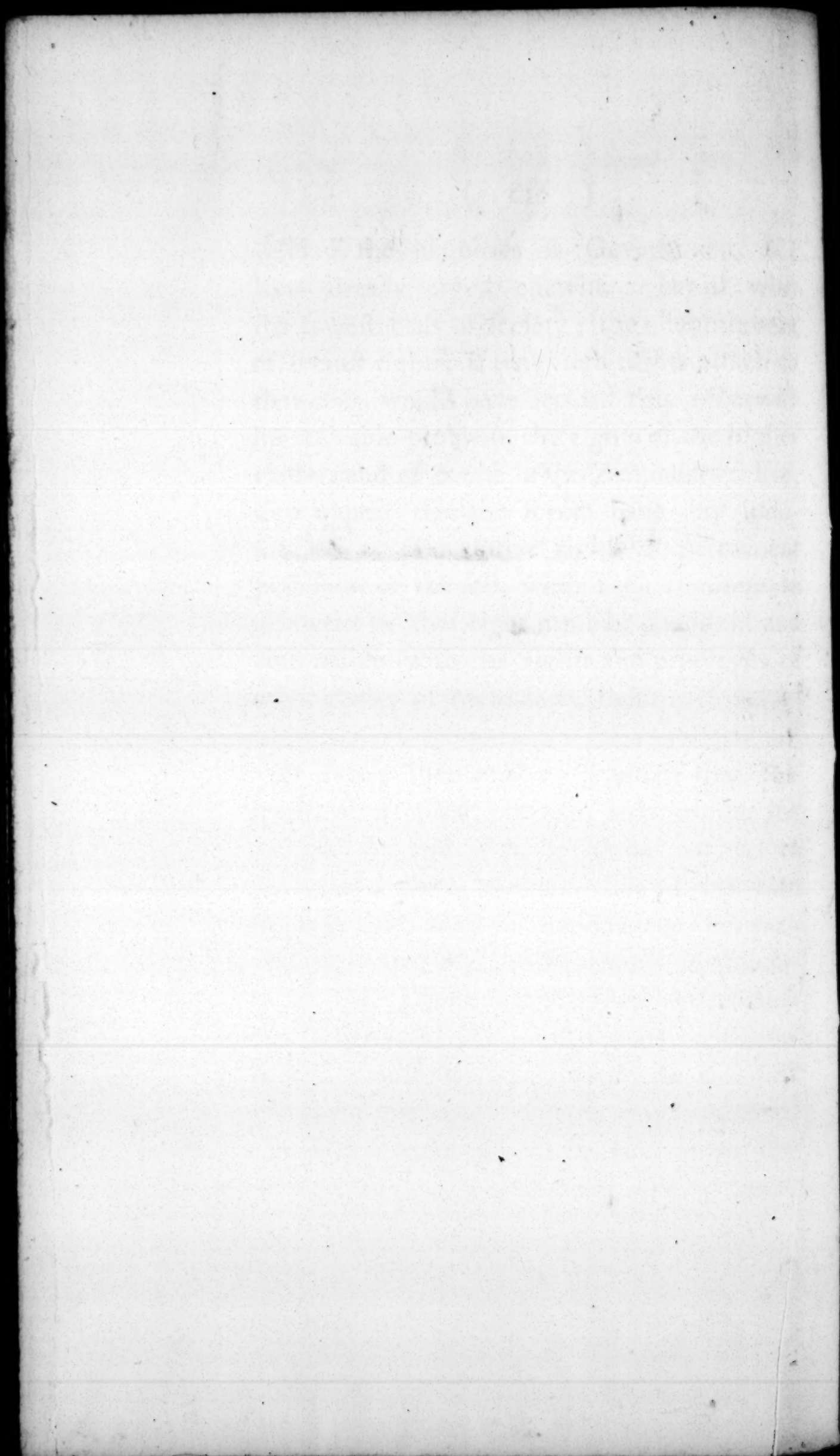
Even Mr. ROUSE admits, “ there may be “ prescriptive titles,” which he leaves in their full force, though he disputes the positive effect of existing written conveyances or pottahs ; of which last, however, every other person, and the Firmaun he himself translated, acknowledge the validity.

I confess it has much surprised me, that there ever should have been two opinions upon the subject ; and I am confirmed in my own, by what has occurred in pleading the cause of the Ryots, on principles of justice and policy.

Had

Had the enquiries of Government, as I have already urged elsewhere, began with the lowest class of society ; the establishment of its just rights, if any such rights attach to that class, would have decided this otherwise inexplicable problem, the rights of the higher classes, and of course of the Zemindars : For, if it appear that the Ryots have any indefeasible or prescriptive right to permanent possession of the soil, while they continue to cultivate it, that right must be consistent and compatible with the rights and privileges of other classes of men above them.

It surely then must be granted, that this question required previous and minute investigation ; and if it be found not yet to have taken place, the adoption of any plan in perpetuity, must of consequence be premature, imperfect, and hazardous in the extreme. I again repeat this argument, which certainly merits your most serious consideration ; because it is important, in the first place, to the credit of your administration, that Government should be clear as to this point,



point, since it involves the success of the measures dependent upon it ; but it is of yet more importance to the millions whose happiness or misery, and that of their descendants, hangs on the issue of your final determination.

Many other considerations obtrude themselves on my mind, which happily, if they occur to you, may serve the cause I am pleading. I will conclude with one of them.

In the mode here humbly suggested for the redress of their grievances, the Title-Deed or Pottah of every individual Ryot will be constantly before the Collector or Revenue Magistrate ; the total quit-rent of each village be ascertainable, and all charges of collection avoided, or averaged to the tenant or future proprietor ; so that, as often as Government may decide upon granting any local remission (which from the nature of the case must perpetually happen in some part or other of the provinces) the relief may then be applied direct, *where only it is essentially necessary*, not to the Zemindar or great Renter, but to
the

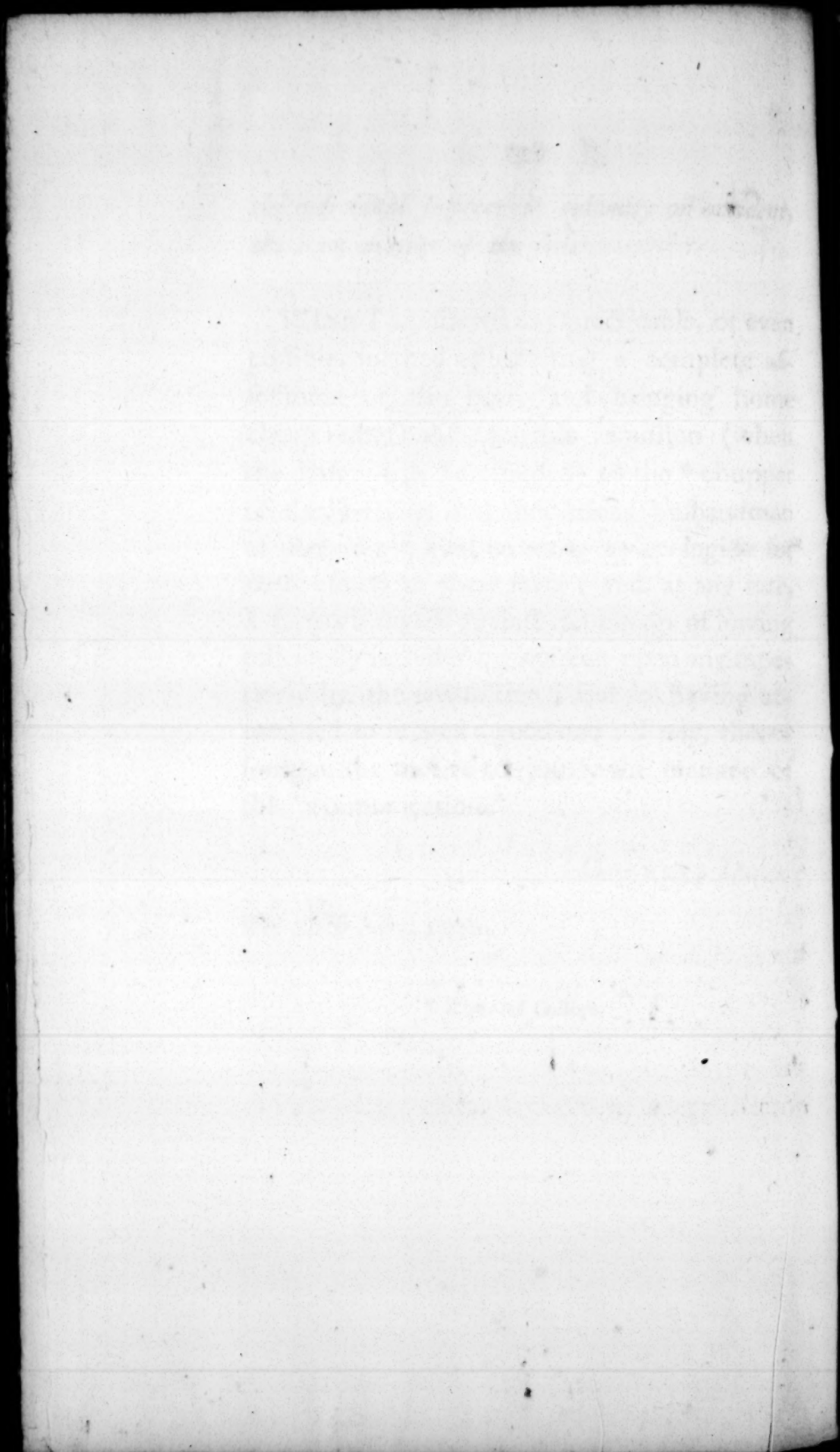
*the individual sufferer by calamity or accident,
the Ryot or tiller of the soil.*

When I am shewn any practicable, or even possible, method of effecting a complete assessment of the land, and bringing home cheap redress and equitable remission (when the latter can be afforded) to the * chupper of the indigent and industrious husbandman of Bengal ; I shall be ready to apologize for these efforts in their favor ; and, at any rate, I support myself against the charge of having officiously intruded my opinion upon my superiors, by the satisfaction I feel in having attempted to suggest a good one : I rely, therefore, on the motive to justify the manner of this communication.

GURREEB DOSS.

The 20th Nov. 1792.

* Thatched College.



No. 14.

L E T T E R VIII.

To WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq.

“ Nihil humani a me alienum puto.”

This trite sentiment of the Poet, has probably contributed more than any other of his numberless beauties, to transmit the name of Terence to immortality. You, Sir, have deserved still better of mankind, inasmuch as the practice of virtue exceeds the precept.

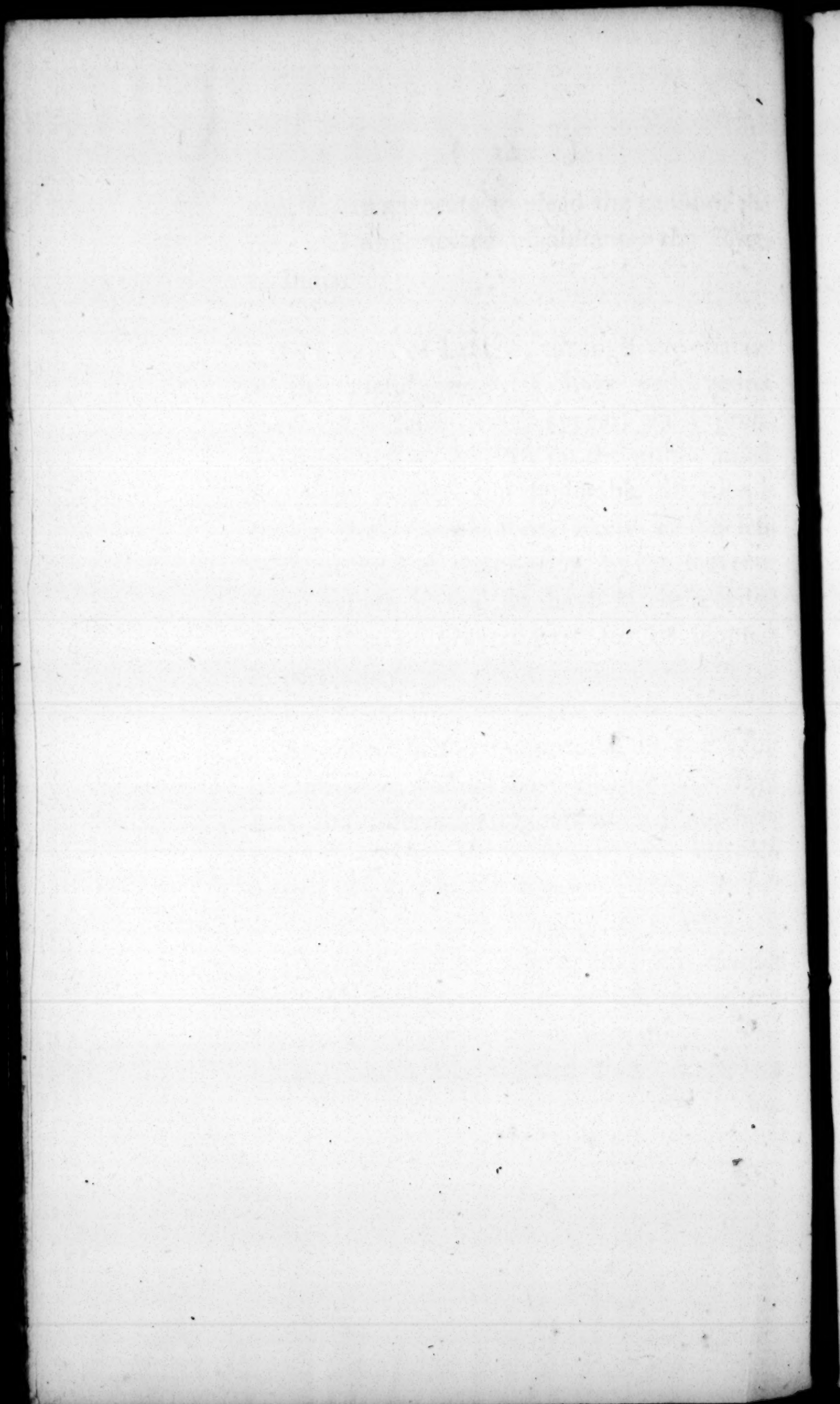
Amidst the bright characters which adorn the British Senate, I can no where, therefore, with so much propriety, address myself, as to

you, for an advocate to plead the cause of the poor and unprotected inhabitants, the Ryots of India.

In a series of Letters, through the channel of this useful paper, I have endeavoured (perhaps to some it may appear, with prolix importunity) to impress on the public mind, the really helpless and deplorable situation in which these people seem likely to be left, without hope of redemption, by the Revenue Plan, which is said to have lately received the sanction of Government for its adoption in perpetuity.

An object of this magnitude, in the cause of humanity, cannot have escaped your vigilant and discriminating attention; nor have failed to interest in its favour, the warmest wishes of your feeling heart.

I beseech you to believe, that it is neither the sickly malignity of an envious mind, nor the peevish captiousness of disappointed ambition, which has dictated these exertions; but



but an irksome solicitude for the prosperity of my country, and for the happiness of my fellow creatures, incessantly goading me on to perseverance in the cause I have undertaken.

Had you been as often witness, as I have, to the misery and distress of the class of men for whom I intercede, your heart would have bled, as much for the depravity of their native oppressors, as in pity for the objects of such systematic cruelty.

But I will not risque doing injury to my cause, by an attempt to paint it in the vivid colours of a shocked imagination. What I have already brought in proof, will sufficiently exhibit the condition of the poorer natives of our eastern provinces—"both what they might have been, and what they are."

A negro slave in the Island of Granada, LORD MACARTNEY described to the House of Lords, to be in a more enviable situation than the common labourer of England. But, with only the shadow of personal liberty, the

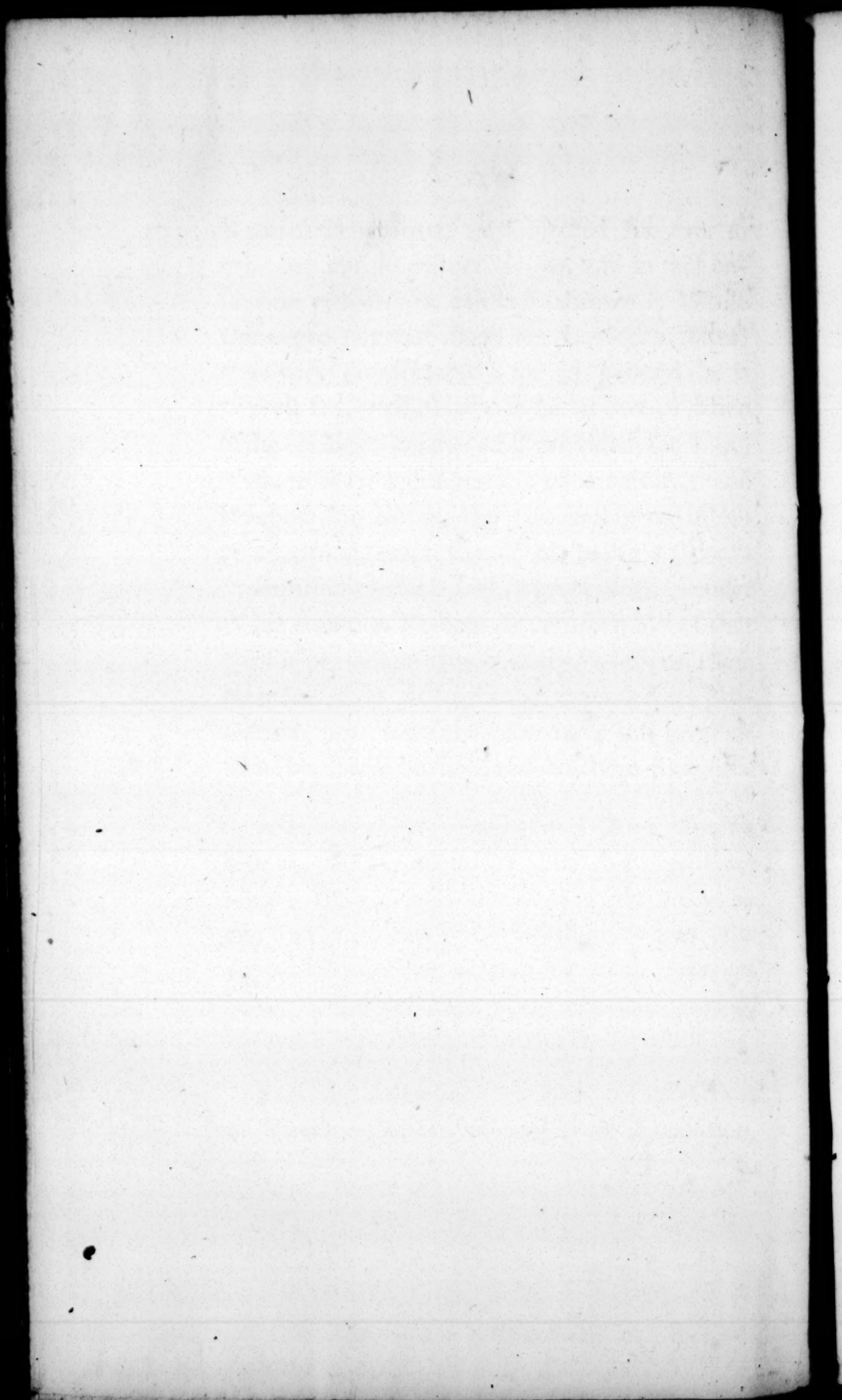
K

Ryot

Ryot of Bengal is to be subjected for ever to arbitrary and undefined claims, and in fact enjoys no property he can call his own. While the negro (in that island his Lordship states) “ is very comfortable ; for in general he is “ well fed, well cloathed, taken care of when “ he is sick, every thing provided for him ; “ there is no apprehension of creditors ; and “ upon the whole, the circumstances of his “ condition, exclusive of his being a slave, a “ sentiment which few negroes feel, render “ his situation perhaps as comfortable as that “ of a peasant in this country.”—Over these men has your philanthropy extended its protection ; my clients therefore have just grounds to hope it will be dispensed to them likewise.

After an attentive perusal of the foregoing letters, all I hope for, is, that you may have leisure, for you will not want opportunity, in the course of the present session, to urge the India Minister to an explicit declaration of his own opinion upon their contents, and of his intentions in consequence.

I am far from accusing him, or the Court of Directors, of wilful neglect or inattention,
to



to the happiness of our Indian fellow subjects, or of disregarding the duty of establishing *the best method of collecting the tribute from them*. All I fear, is, that having called for the opinion of those professional characters, from whom they had been taught to expect the best information; and particularly relying upon the sanction given by the Governor General, EARL CORNWALLIS, to the murrery plan; that his Lordship and the Board of Controul may have too readily adopted it, as the best which had been offered for their choice; without having themselves investigated it in all its branches, and the remote and immediate consequences which it now appears may be apprehended from reducing it to practice.

I am greatly mistaken in my opinion of Sir JOHN SHORE's benevolence and judgment, or he will have reflected seriously upon the subject of the first of these letters.* I doubt

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not

* Possibly it may have been in some degree instrumental towards effecting the last arrangement we have heard of, which completely

not he will have felt the force of the arguments and proofs it contained. At the same time, the orders he is supposed to have carried out having been peremptory, and his consent perhaps obtained for putting them into execution ; his goodness of heart, and consciousness of the nature of such an engagement, may involve Sir JOHN in a dilemma, and subject him to a severe conflict between public duty and private conviction. He cannot therefore be too soon relieved from such an embarrassment.

Permit me then to entreat your powerful intercession for immediate orders being transmitted to Bengal, that the final confirmation of the Mocurrery plan may be suspended, during the whole remainder of the term originally stipulated for experiment of its effects; and that proper measures may be taken for instituting the most minute inquiry into the rights of every individual class of claimants to

completely separates the judicial from the revenue department, and deprives the collectors of the latter of all coercive jurisdiction.

to landed property, and regulations framed for their future protection and relief.

From an intimate personal knowledge of the characters of Gentlemen in the Civil Service there, I entertain not a shadow of doubt that they will hesitate a moment in cordially supporting the principle of this essential measure, and in assisting, to the utmost of their power, its ultimate success : Government, therefore, will risque nothing by suspending the plan in question, not even the appearance of inconsistency. While, on the other hand, every possible mischief (in my conception at least) is to be apprehended from its too early and decisive confirmation.

Your connexion with Government ; your ample fortune and consequence in life ; and, above all, the zeal and ability you have exerted in a similar cause ; while they set you above all danger of incurring the chagrin of a disappointment in this application, may happily shelter me, under this address, from the imputation of having wilfully sought to en-

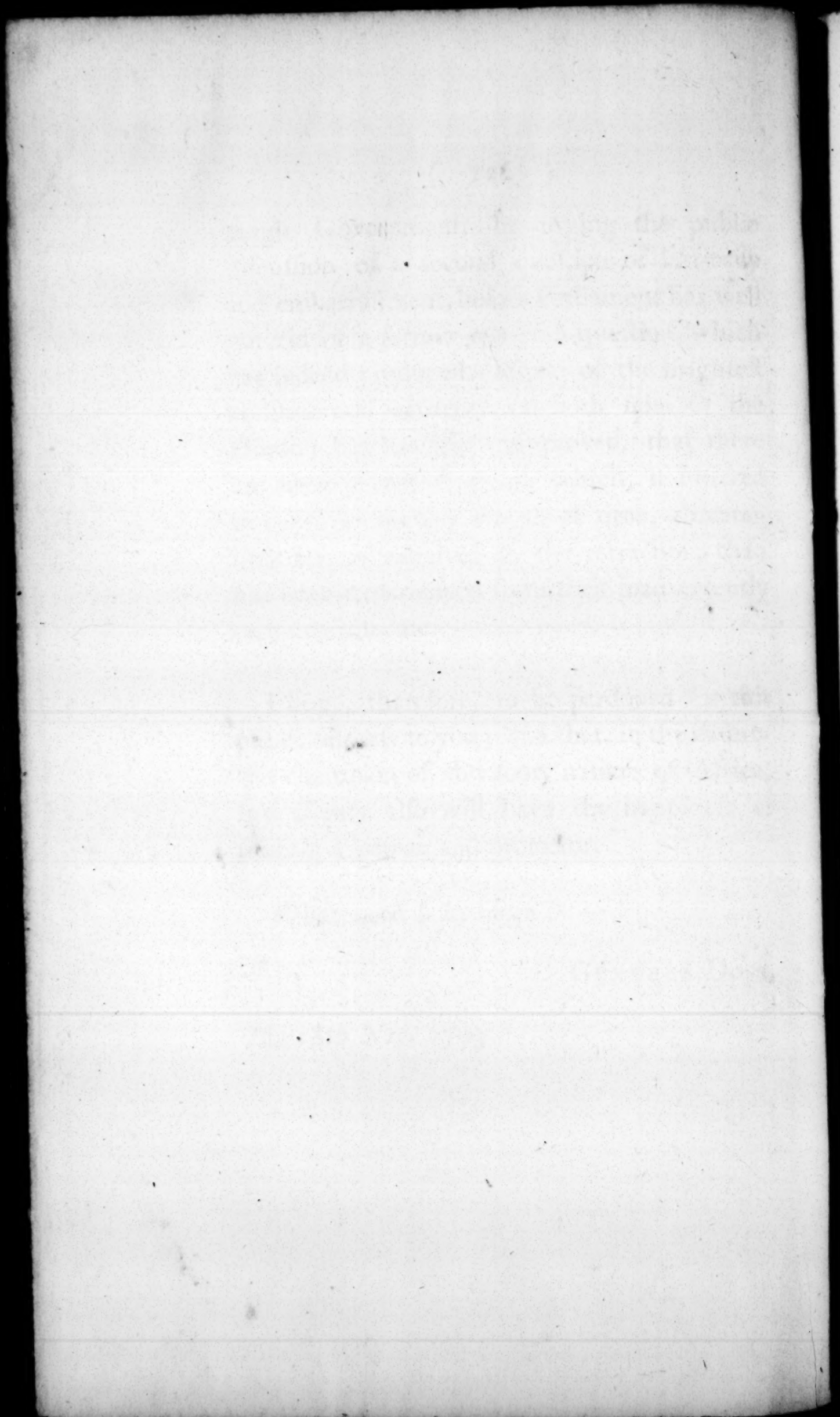
tangle Government, by urging the public discussion of a second question of intricacy and embarrassment, before Parliament has well got rid of a former one. A question, which has indeed produced a display of the brightest abilities and acuteness on both sides of the House ; but has likewise proved, that there are some political errors, which, if suffered to continue for any length of time, threaten little less of mischief in the retraction, than has been experienced from their inadvertently creeping into use.

I hope, therefore, to be pardoned for this public address to you ; and that, in the dauntless champion of the footy natives of Africa, my clients also will have the happiness of finding a patron and protector.

What need I say more ?

GURREEB DOSS.

The 18th Nov. 1793.



BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

PROCLAMATION.

To the ZEMINDARS, INDEPENDENT TALOOKDARS, and other ACTUAL PROPRIETORS of LAND paying Revenue to Government, in the Provinces of BENGAL, BEHAR, and ORISSA.

ARTICLE I.

IN the original Regulations for the Decennial Settlement of the Public Revenues of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, passed for these Provinces respectively on the 18th September 1789, the 25th November 1789, and the 10th

February 1790, it was notified to the Proprietors of Land with or on behalf of whom a Settlement might be concluded, that the Jumma assessed upon their Lands under those Regulations would be continued after the expiration of the ten years, and remain unalterable for ever, provided such Continuance should meet with the approbation of the Honourable Court of Directors for the Affairs of the East India Company, and not otherwise.

A R T I C L E I I.

The Marquis CORNWALLIS, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Governor General in Council, now notifies to all Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land paying Revenue to Government, in the Provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, that he has been empowered by the Honourable Court of Directors for the Affairs of the East India Company to declare the Jumma which has been or may be assessed upon their Lands under the Regulations above-mentioned fixed for ever.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice of the United States, and six Associates, who shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour.

Section 3. The Congress shall have the Power to regulate the Jurisdiction of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 4. The Judges, both of the Supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour.

Section 5. The President shall have the Power to nominate and appoint, and to remove the Judges of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 6. The Judges of the Supreme and inferior Courts shall be paid for their Services, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 7. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Regulations and Orders of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 8. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 9. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 10. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 11. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 12. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 13. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 14. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 15. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

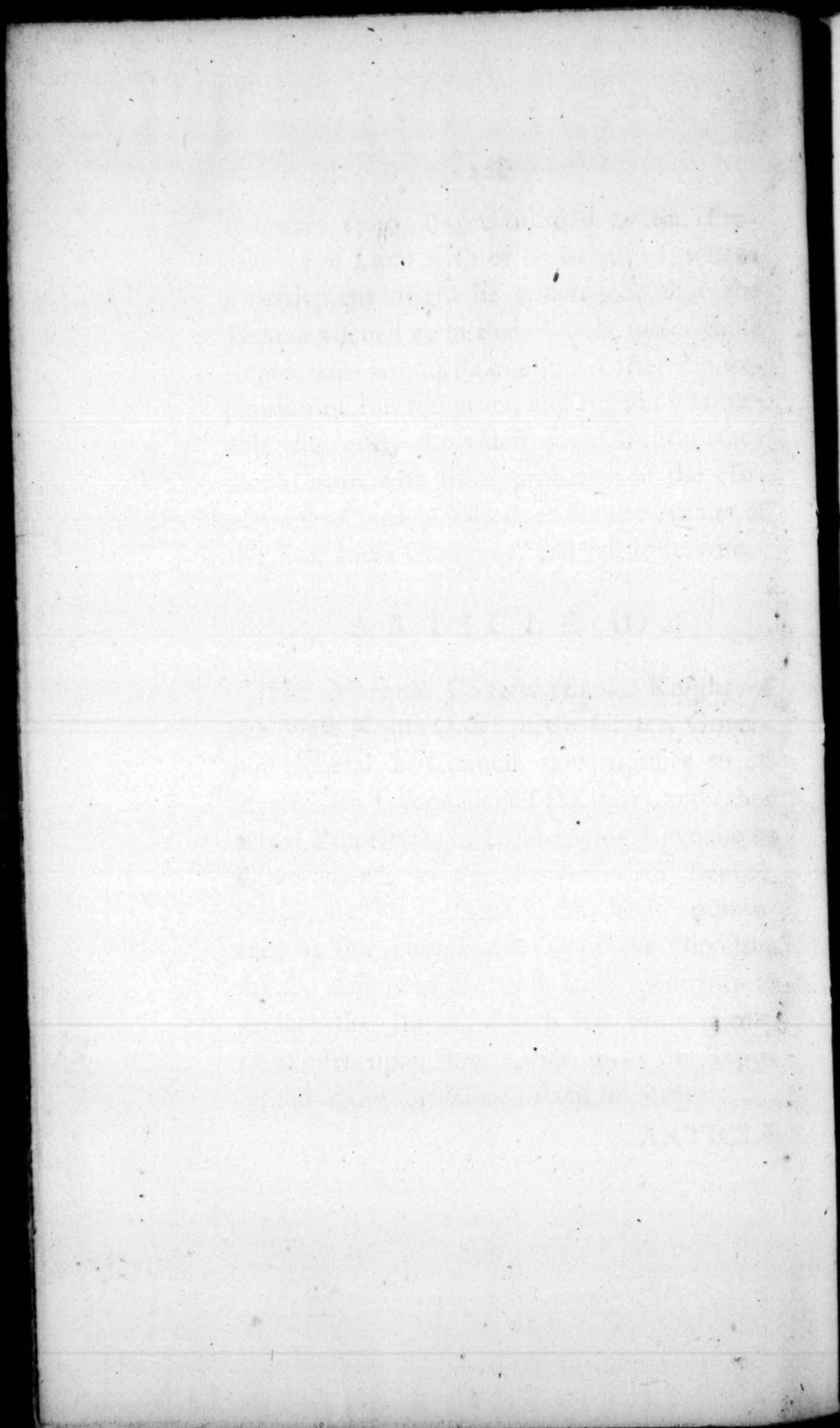
Section 16. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 17. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 18. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 19. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.

Section 20. The Congress shall have the Power to make and alter the Rules of the Supreme and inferior Courts.



A R T I C L E III.

The Governor General in Council accordingly declares to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land, with or on behalf of whom a Settlement has been concluded under the Regulations above mentioned, that at the Expiration of the Term of the Settlement, no alteration will be made in the Assessment which they have respectively engaged to pay, but that they and their heirs and lawful successors will be allowed to hold their estates at such assessment for ever.

A R T I C L E IV.

The Lands of some Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land, having been held Khas, or let in farm, in Consequence of their refusing to pay the Assessment required of them under the Regulations above mentioned, the Governor General in Council now notifies to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other
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actual Proprietors of Land, whose Lands are held Khas, that they shall be restored to the management of their Lands, upon their agreeing to the payment of the Assessment which has been or may be required of them in conformity to the regulations above mentioned, and that no alteration shall afterwards be made in that Assessment, but that they and their heirs and lawful successors shall be permitted to hold their respective estates at such assessment for ever : and he declares to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land, whose Lands have been let in farm, that they shall not regain Possession of their Lands before the Expiration of the Period for which they have been farmed (unless the Farmers shall voluntarily consent to make over to them the remaining term of their Lease and the Governor General in Council shall approve of the transfer) but that at the expiration of that period, upon their agreeing to the payment of the Assessment which may be required of them, they shall be reinstated, and that no alteration shall afterwards be made in that assessment,

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assessment, but that they and their heirs and lawful successors shall be allowed to hold their respective estates at such assessment for ever.

A R T I C L E V.

In the event of the Proprietary right in Lands, that are, or may become the property of Government, being transferred to Individuals; such Individuals, and their heirs, and lawful successors, shall be permitted to hold the Lands at the assessment at which they may be transferred for ever.

A R T I C L E VI.

It is well known to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land, as well as to the Inhabitants of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa in general, that from the earliest Times until the present Period the Public assessment upon the lands has never been fixed, but that according to established usage and custom, the Rulers of these Provinces have from time to time demanded an increase of Assessment from the
Proprietors

Proprietors of Land, and that for the purpose of obtaining this increase, not only frequent investigations have been made to ascertain the actual produce of their Estates, but that it has been the practice to deprive them of the management of their Lands, and either to let them in farm, or to appoint officers on the part of Government to collect the Assessment immediately from the Ryots. The Honourable Court of Directors considering these usages and measures to be detrimental to the prosperity of the Country, have, with a view to promote the future ease and happiness of the people, authorised the foregoing declarations ; and the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land, with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been or may be concluded, are to consider these Orders fixing the Amount of the Assessment as irrevocable, and not liable to alteration by any Persons whom the Court of Directors may hereafter appoint to the Administration of their Affairs in this Country.

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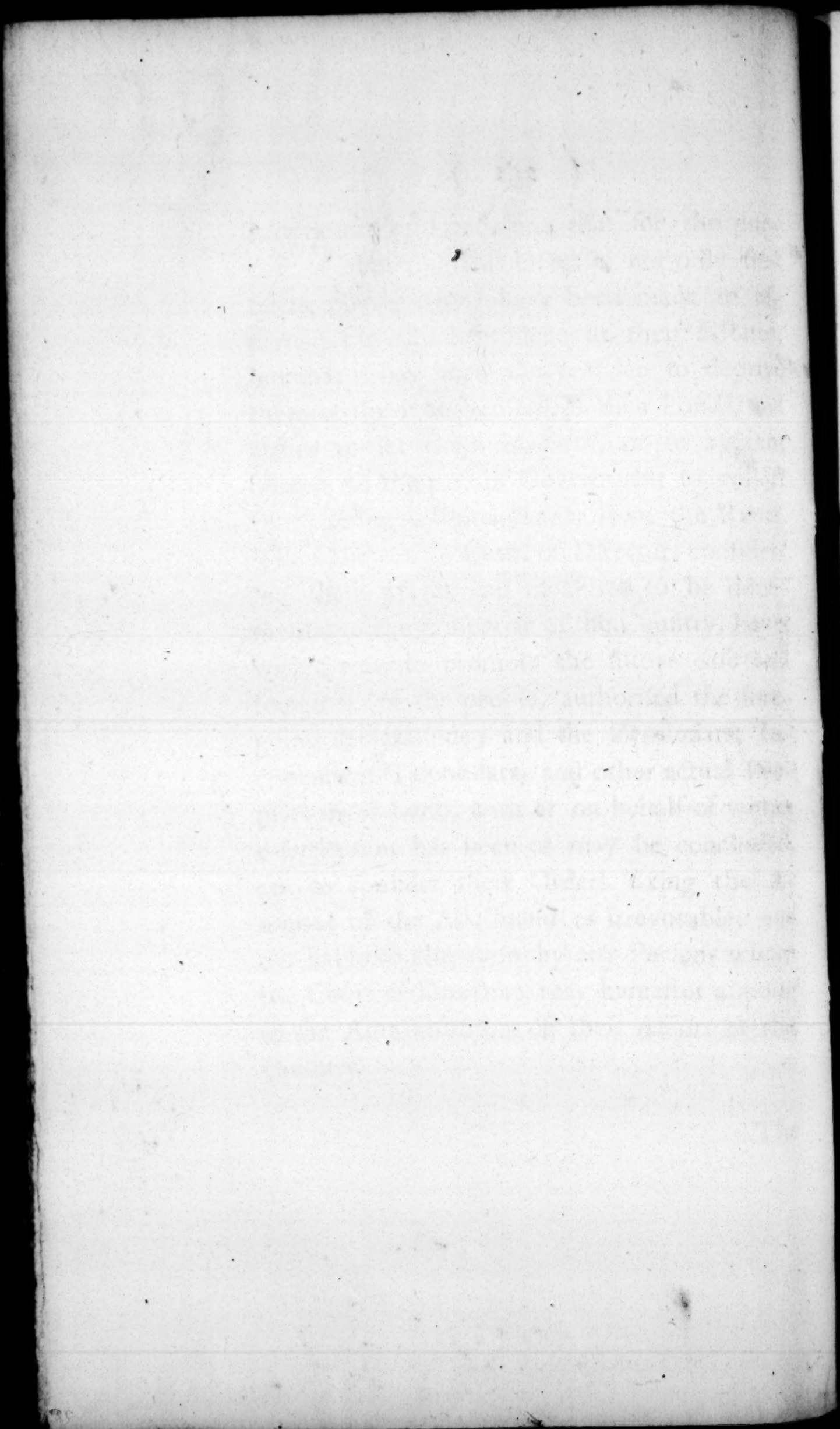
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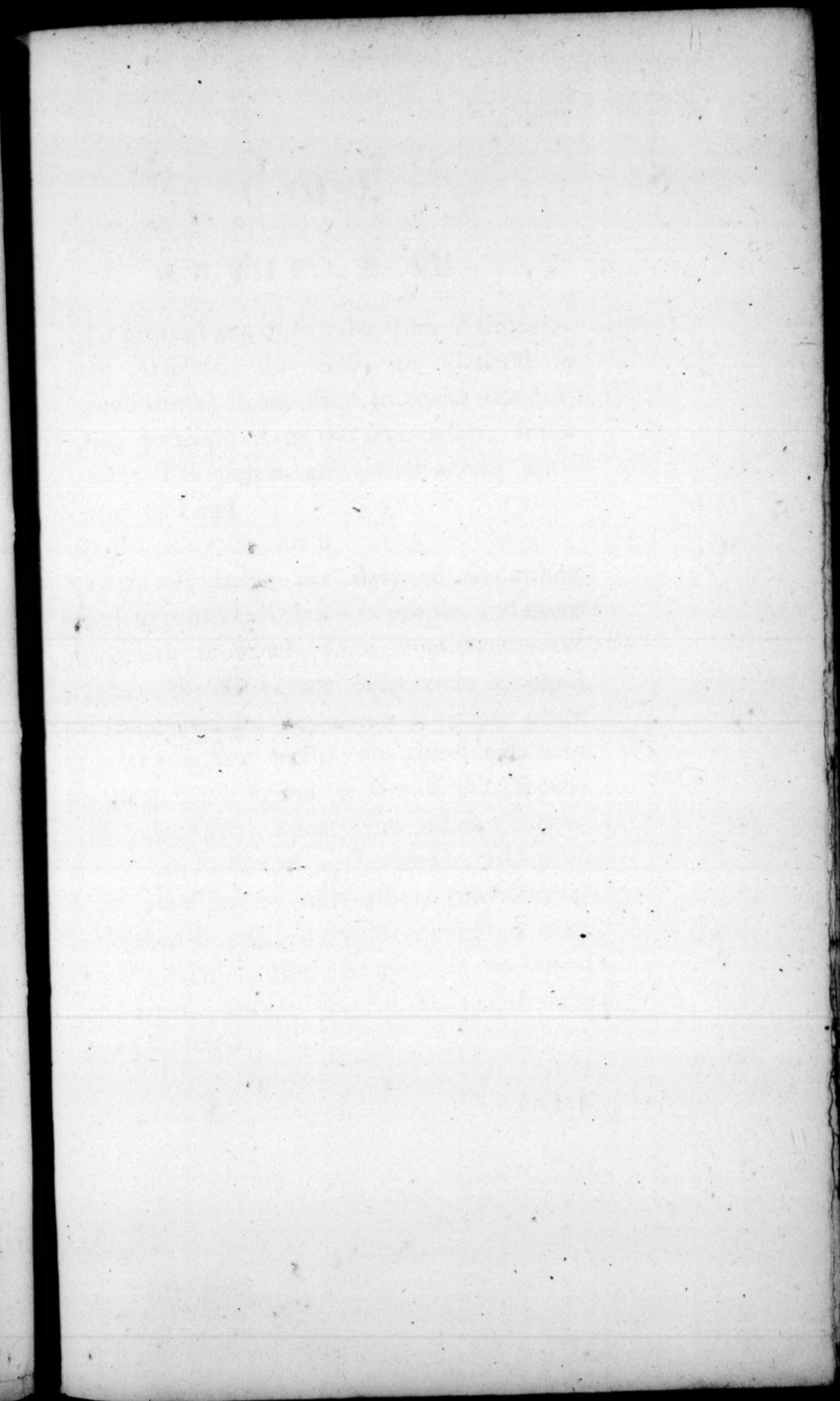


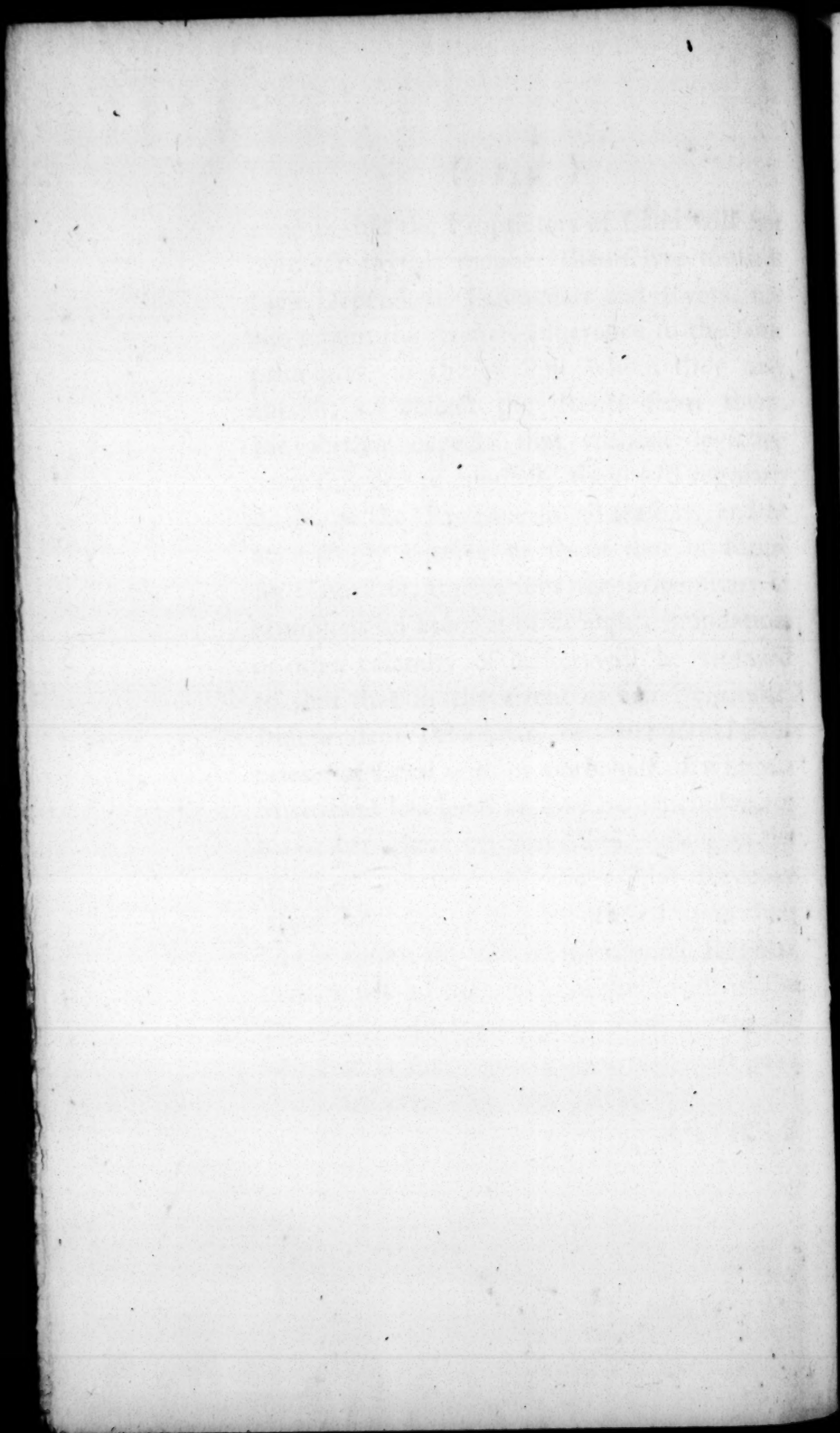
The Governor General in Council trusts, that the Proprietors of Land sensible of the Benefits conferred upon them by the Public Assessment being fixed for ever, will exert themselves in the cultivation of their Lands under the certainty that they will enjoy exclusively the fruits of their own good Management and Industry, and that no Demand will ever be made upon them, or their Heirs or Successors, by the present or any future Government for an augmentation of the Public Assessment in consequence of the improvement of their respective Estates.

To discharge the Revenues at the stipulated Periods without delay or evasion, and to conduct themselves with good Faith and Moderation towards their Dependent Talookdars and Ryots, are Duties at all times indispensably required from the Proprietors of Land, and a strict observance of those Duties is now more than ever incumbent upon them, in return for the Benefits which they will themselves derive from the Orders now issued. The Governor General in Council therefore expects

expects that the Proprietors of Land will not only act in this manner themselves towards their Dependent Talookdars and Ryots, but also enjoin the strictest adherence to the same principles, in the persons whom they may appoint to collect the Rents from them. He further expects that without deviating from this line of conduct, they will regularly discharge the Revenue in all seasons, and he accordingly notifies to them that in future no claims or applications for suspensions or remissions on account of drought, inundation, or other calamity of season will be attended to, but that in the event of any Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other actual Proprietor of Land with or on behalf of whom a Settlement has been or may be concluded, or his or her Heirs or Successors, failing in the punctual discharge of the public Revenue which has been or may be assessed upon their Lands under the above mentioned Regulations, a sale of the whole of the Lands of the defaulter, or such portion of them as may be sufficient to make good the arrear, will positively and invariably take place.

ARTICLE





A R T I C L E VII.

To prevent any misconstruction of the foregoing Articles, the Governor General in Council thinks it necessary to make the following declarations to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land.

First. It being the duty of the ruling power to protect all classes of people, and more particularly those who from situation are most helpless, the Governor General in Council will whenever he may deem it proper enact such Regulations as he may think necessary for the protection and welfare of the Dependent Talookdars, Ryots, and other Cultivators of the Soil, and no Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other actual Proprietor of Land shall be entitled on this account to make any objection to the discharge of the fixed Assessment, which they have respectively agreed to pay.

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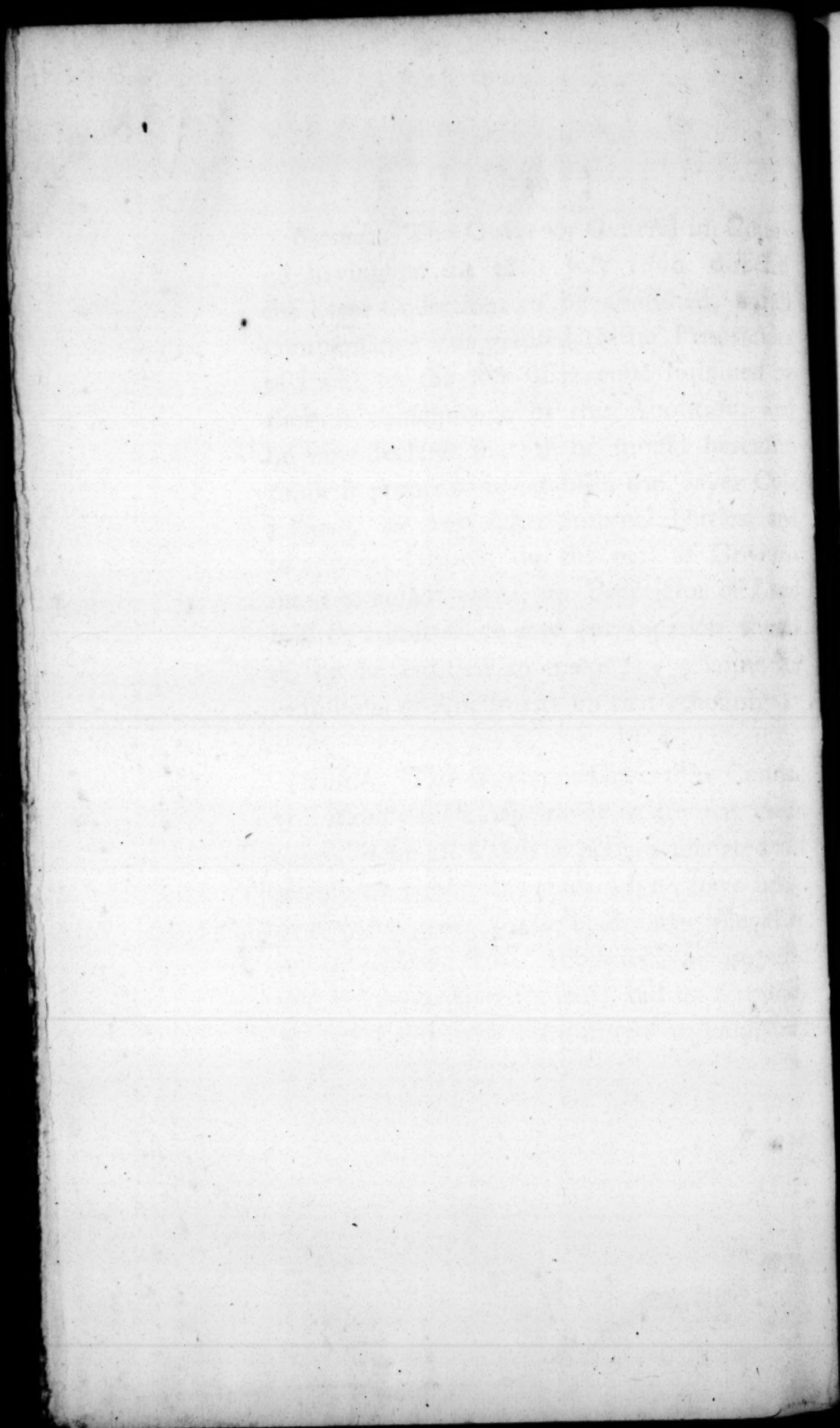
Second. The Governor General in Council having on the 28th July 1790, directed the Sayer Collections to be abolished, a full compensation was granted to the Proprietors of Land, for the loss of revenue sustained by them in consequence of this Abolition, and he now declares that if he should hereafter think it proper to re-establish the Sayer Collections, or any other internal Duties, and to appoint Officers on the part of Government to collect them, no Proprietor of Land will be admitted to any participation thereof, or be entitled to make any Claims for remissions of Assessment on that account.

Third. The Governor General in Council will impose such Assessment as he may deem equitable on all Lands at present alienated and paying no public Revenue, which have been, or may be proved to be held under illegal or invalid titles. The Assessment so imposed will belong to Government, and no Proprietor of Land will be entitled to any part of it.

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Fourth. The Jumma of those Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other actual Proprietors of Land which is declared fixed in the foregoing Articles; is to be considered entirely unconnected with and exclusive of any Allowances which have been made to them in the adjustment of their Jumma for keeping up Tannahs or Police Establishments, and also of the produce of any Lands which they may have been permitted to appropriate for the same purpose; and the Governor General in Council reserves to himself the option of resuming the whole or part of such Allowances or produce of such Lands according as he may think proper in consequence of his having exonerated the Proprietors of Land from the charge of keeping the Peace, and appointed Officers on the part of Government to superintend the Police of the Country. The Governor General in Council however declares that the Allowances or Produce of Lands which may be so resumed will be appropriated to no other purpose but that of defraying the expence of the Police, and that instructions will be sent to the Col-

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lectors not to add such Allowances or the Produce of such Lands to the Jumma of the Proprietors of Land, but to collect the amount from them separately.

Fifth. Nothing contained in this Proclamation shall be construed to render the Lands of the several descriptions of disqualified Proprietors specified in the first Article of the Regulations regarding disqualified Land-holders passed on the 15th July 1791, liable to sale for any Arrears which have accrued or may accrue on the fixed Jumma that has been or may be Assessed upon their Lands under the above mentioned Regulations for the decennial Settlement, provided that such Arrears have accrued or may accrue during the time that they have been or may be dispossessed of the management of their Lands under the said Regulations of the 15th July 1791. It is to be understood however that whenever all or any of the descriptions of disqualified Landholders specified in the first article of the last mentioned Regulations shall be permitted to assume

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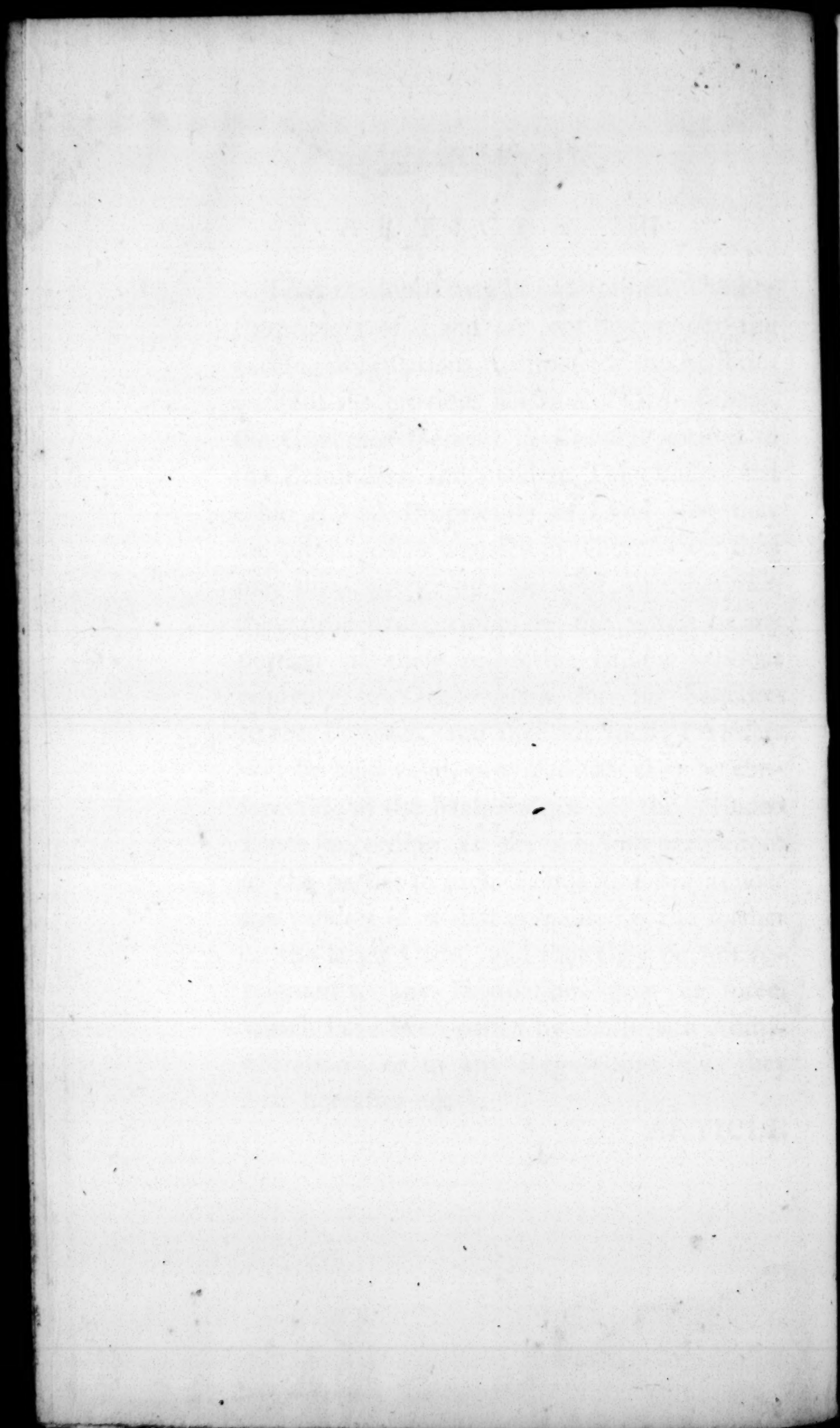
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assume or retain the management of their Lands in consequence of the ground of their disqualification no longer existing, or of the Governor General in Council dispensing with, altering, or abolishing those Regulations, the Lands of such Proprietors will be held responsible for the payment of the fixed Jumma that has been or may be assessed thereon from the time that the management may devolve upon them, in the same manner as the Lands of all actual Proprietors of Land who are declared qualified for the Management of their Estates, and also of all actual Proprietors who are unqualified for such Management by natural or other disabilities but do not come within the descriptions of disqualified Landholders specified in the first Article of the Regulations of the 15th July 1791, are and will be held answerable for any Arrears that are or may become due from them on the fixed Jumma which they or any persons on their behalf have engaged or may engage to pay under the above-mentioned Regulations for the Decennial Settlement.

A R T I C L E VIII.

That no doubt may be entertained whether Proprietors of Land are entitled under the existing Regulations to dispose of their Estates without the previous sanction of Government, the Governor General in Council notifies to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other Actual Proprietors of Land that they are privileged to transfer to whomsoever they may think proper by Sale, Gift, or otherwise, their proprietary rights in the whole or any portion of their respective Estates without applying to Government for its Sanction to the Transfer, and that all such Transfers will be held valid, provided that they be conformable to the Mahomedan or the Hindoo Laws (according as the religious persuasions of the parties to each Transaction may render the validity of it determinable by the former or the latter Code) and that they be not repugnant to any Regulations now in force, which have been passed by the British Administrations, or to any Regulations that they may hereafter enact.

ARTICLE



ARTICLE IX.

From the limitation of the Public Demand upon the Lands, the neat income, and consequently the value (independent of increase of rent obtainable by improvements) of any landed Property for the Assessment on which a distinct Engagement has been or may be entered into between Government and the Proprietor, or that may be separately assessed, although included in one engagement with other Estates belonging to the same Proprietor, and which may be offered for public or private Sale entire, will always be ascertainable by a Comparison of the Amount of the fixed Jumma assessed upon it (which agreeably to the foregoing declarations is to remain unalterable for ever to whomsoever the Property may be transferred) with the whole of its Produce, allowing for the charges of management. But it is also essential that a notification should be made of the principles upon which the fixed Assessment charged upon any such Estate will be apportioned on the several Divisions of it in the event of the

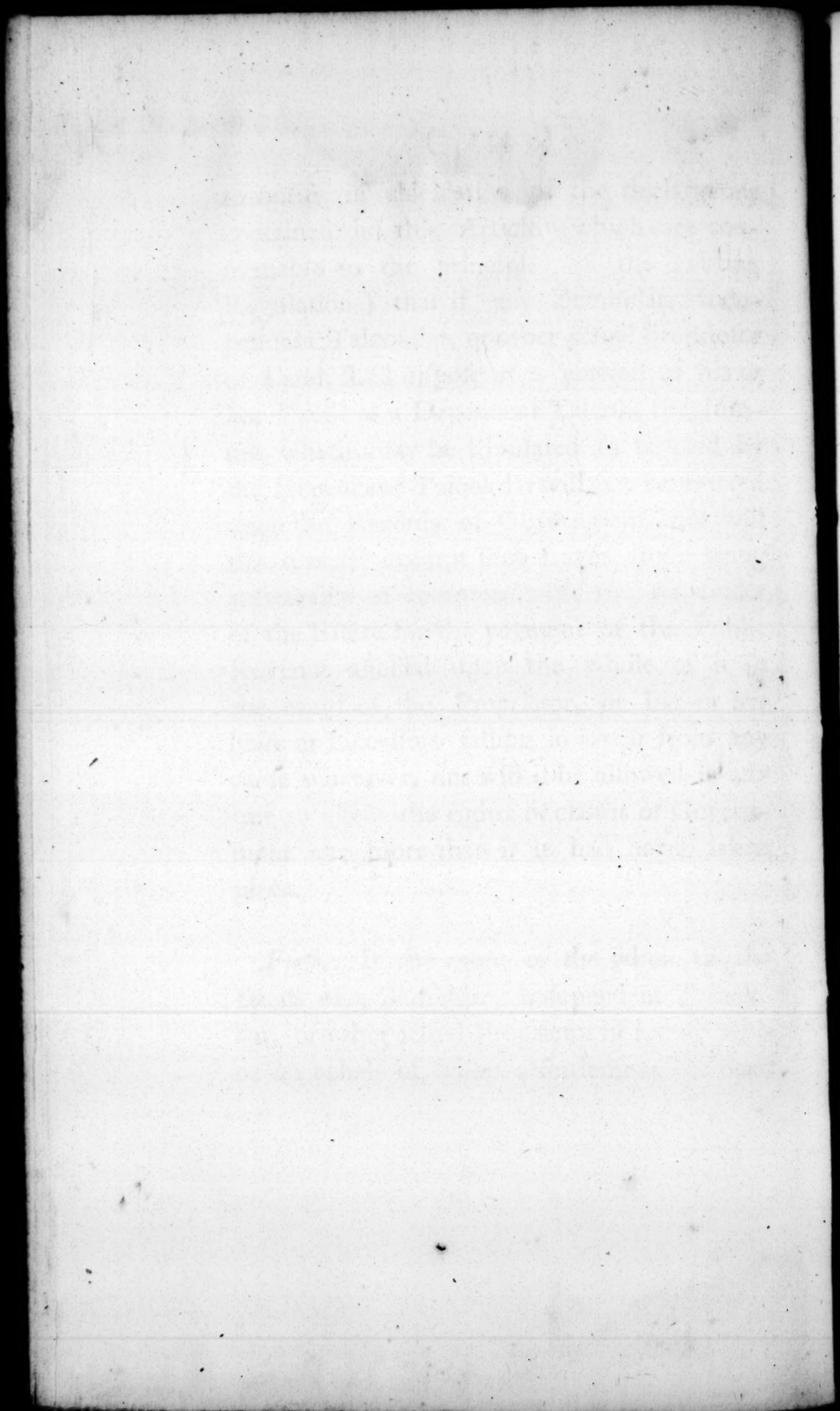
whole of it being transferred by public or private Sale, or otherwise, in two or more lots, or of a portion of it being so transferred in one or in two or more lots, or of its being joint property, and a division of it being made amongst the Proprietors; otherwise, from the want of a declared rule for estimating the proportion of the fixed Jumma, with which the several shares would be chargeable in such cases, the real value of each share would be uncertain, and consequently the benefits expected to result from fixing the Public Assessment upon the lands would be but partially obtained. The Governor General in Council has accordingly prescribed the following rules for apportioning the fixed Assessment in the several cases above-mentioned; but as Government might sustain a considerable loss of Revenue by disproportionate allotments of the assessment were the apportioning of it in any of the cases above specified to be left to the Proprietors, he requires that all such transfers or divisions as may be made by the private act of the parties themselves be notified to the Collector of

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of the Revenue of the Zillah in which the lands may be situated, or such other officer as Government may in future prescribe, in order that the fixed Jumma assessed upon the whole Estate may be apportioned on the several shares in the manner hereafter directed, and that the names of the Proprietors of each share, and the Jumma charged thereon, may be entered upon the Public Registers, and that separate engagements for the payment of the Jumma assessed upon each share may be executed by the Proprietors, who will thenceforward be considered as Actual Proprietors of Land. And the Governor General in Council declares, that if the parties to such transfers or divisions shall omit to notify them to the Collector of the Revenue of the Zillah, or such other officer as may be hereafter prescribed, for the purposes before-mentioned, the whole of such Estate will be held responsible to Government for the discharge of the fixed Jumma assessed upon it in the same manner, as if no such transfer or division had ever taken place. The Governor General in Council thinks it necessary further

to notify in elucidation of the declarations contained in this Article (which are conformable to the principles of the existing Regulations) that if any Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other actual Proprietor of Land, shall dispose of a portion of his or her Lands as a Dependent Talook, the Jumma which may be stipulated to be paid by the Dependent Talookdar will not be entered upon the Records of Government, nor will the transfer exempt such Lands from being answerable in common with the remainder of the Estate for the payment of the Public Revenue assessed upon the whole of it in the event of the Proprietor, or his or her heirs or successors falling in arrear from any cause whatever, nor will it be allowed in any case to affect the rights or claims of Government any more than if it had never taken place.

First. In the event of the whole of the Lands of a Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other actual Proprietor of Land, with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been
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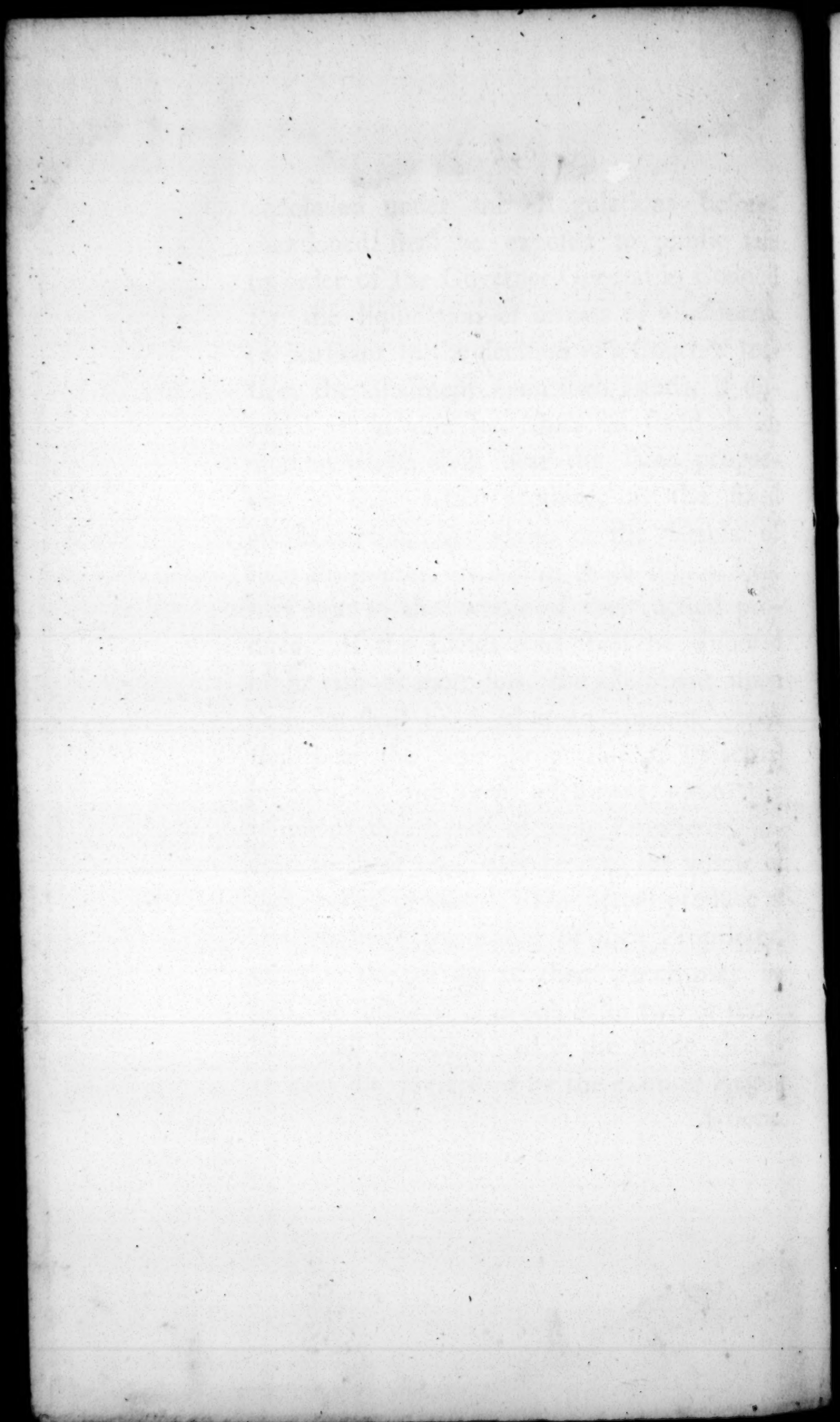
or may be concluded under the Regulations above-mentioned, being exposed to public sale by the order of the Governor General in Council for the discharge of arrears of assessment, or in consequence of the decision of a Court of Justice, in two or more lots, the assessment upon each lot shall be fixed at an amount which shall bear the same proportion to its actual produce as the fixed assessment upon the whole of the Lands sold may bear to the whole of their actual produce. This produce shall be ascertained in the mode that is or may be prescribed by the existing Regulations, or such other Regulations as the Governor General in Council may hereafter adopt, and the purchaser or purchasers of such lands, and his, or her, or their heirs and lawful successors, shall hold them at the Jumma at which they may be so purchased, for ever.

Second. When a portion of the Lands of a Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other actual Proprietor of Land, with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been or may be

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concluded under the Regulations before-mentioned, shall be exposed to public sale by order of the Governor General in Council for the liquidation of arrears of assessment, or pursuant to the decision of a Court of Justice, the assessment upon such Lands, if disposed of in one lot, shall be fixed at an amount which shall bear the same proportion to their actual produce, as the fixed assessment upon the whole of the Lands of such Proprietor, including those disposed of, may bear to the whole of their actual produce. If the Lands sold shall be disposed of in two or more lots, the assessment upon each lot shall be fixed at an amount which shall bear the same proportion to its actual produce, as the fixed assessment upon the whole of the Lands of such Proprietor, including those sold, may bear to the whole of their actual produce. The actual produce of the whole of the Lands of such Proprietor, whether the portion of them which may be sold, be disposed of in one or in two or more lots, shall be ascertained in the mode that is or may be prescribed by the existing Regulations,

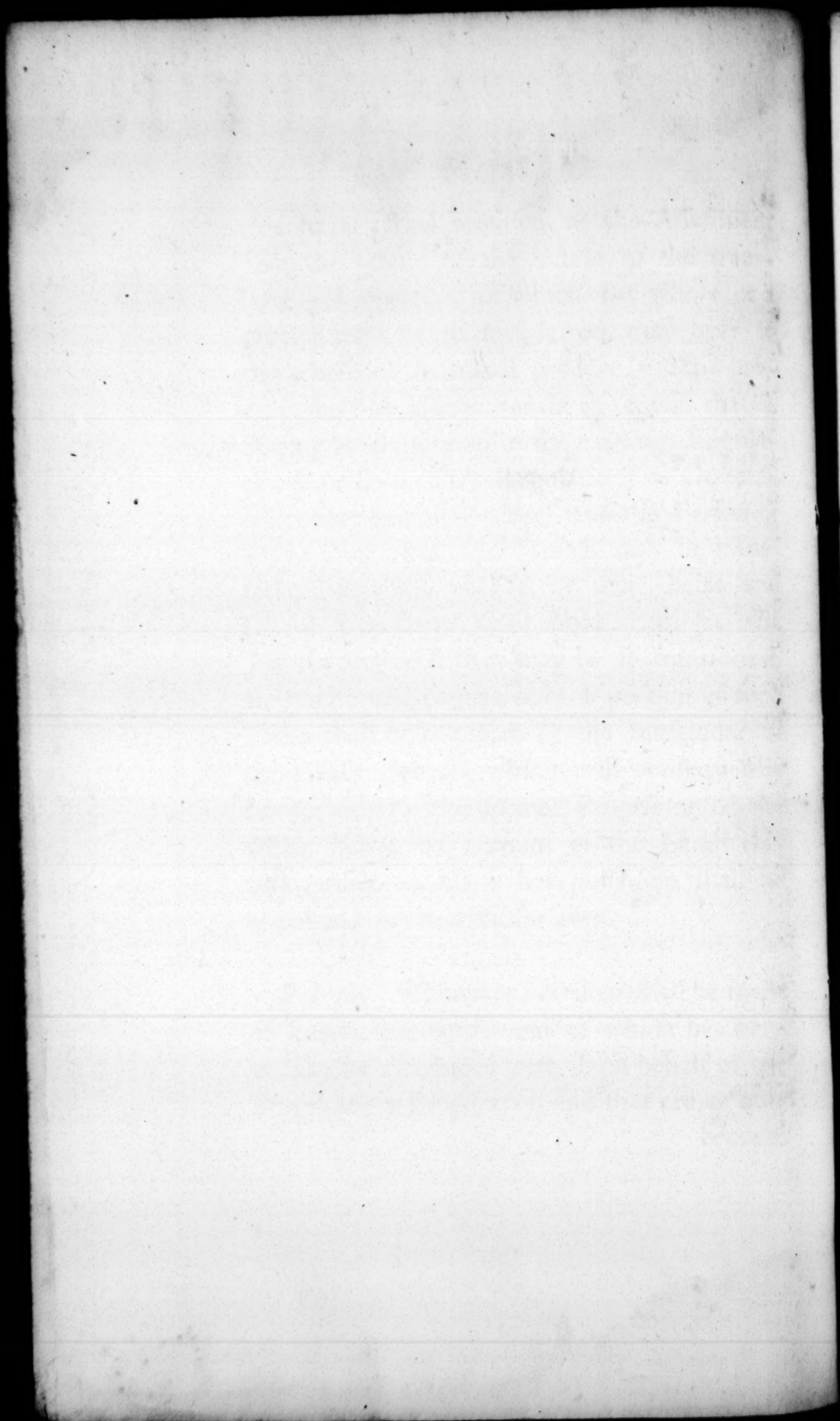


lations, or such other Regulations as the Governor General in Council may hereafter enact, and the purchaser or purchasers of such Lands, and his, or her, or their heirs or successors, will be allowed to hold them at the Jumma at which they may be so purchased, for ever; and the remainder of the Public Jumma, which will consequently be payable by the former Proprietor of the whole Estate, on account of the portion of it that may be left in his or her possession, will continue unalterable for ever.

Third. When a Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other Actual Proprietor of Land, with or on behalf of whom a settlement has been or may be concluded, shall transfer the whole of his or her Estate in two or more distinct portions to two or more persons, or a portion thereof to one person, or to two or more persons in joint property, by private sale, gift or otherwise, the Assessment upon each distinct portion of such Estate so transferred, shall be fixed at an amount which shall bear the same proportion

tion to its actual produce, as the Assessment upon the whole of the Estate of the transferring Proprietor, of which the whole or a portion may be so transferred, may bear to the whole of its actual produce. This produce shall be ascertained in the mode that is or may be prescribed in the existing Regulations, or such other Regulations as Government may hereafter adopt, and the Person or Persons to whom such Lands may be transferred, and his, or her, or their heirs and lawful successors, shall hold them at the Jumma at which they may be so transferred, for ever : and (where only a portion of such Estate shall be transferred) the remainder of the Public Jumma which will consequently be payable by the former Proprietor of the whole Estate on account of the Lands that may remain in his or her possession shall be continued unalterable for ever.

Fourth. Whenever a division shall be made of Lands, the Settlement of which has been or may be concluded with or on behalf of the Proprietor or Proprietors, and that are or may become



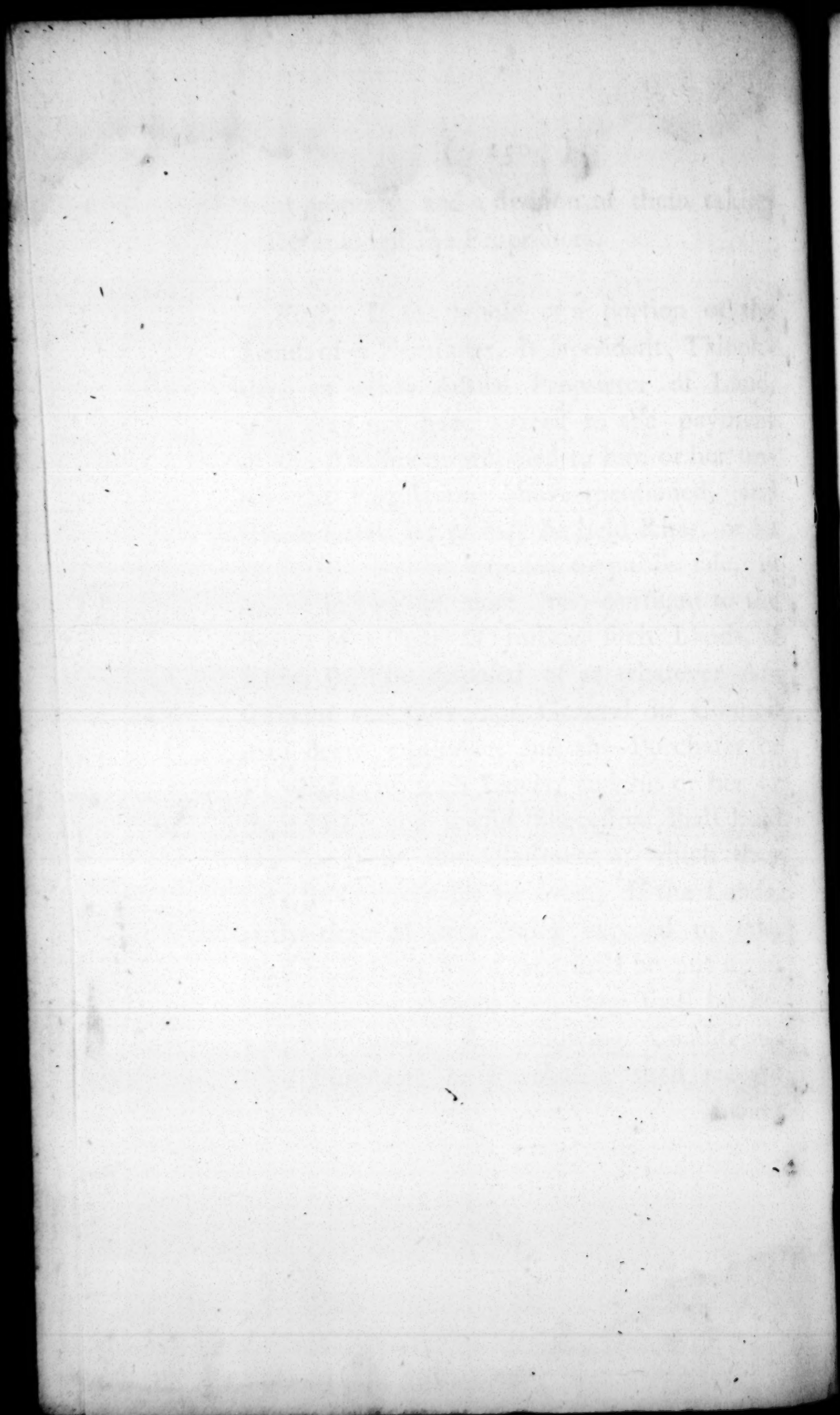
become the joint property of two or more persons, the Assessment upon each share shall be fixed at an amount which shall bear the same proportion to its actual produce, as the fixed Jumma assessed upon the whole of the Estate divided, may bear to the whole of its actual produce. This produce shall be ascertained in the mode that is or may be prescribed by the existing Regulations, or such other Regulations as the Governor General in Council may hereafter adopt, and the Sharers and their Heirs and lawful Successors shall hold their respective Shares at the Jumma which may be so assessed upon them for ever.

ARTICLE X.

The following rules are prescribed respecting the adjustment of the Assessment on the Lands of Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other Actual Proprietors of Land, whose Lands are or may be held Khas or let in Farm, in the event of their being disposed of by public sale, or transferred by any private act of the Proprietor, or of their being
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joint property, and a division of them taking place amongst the Proprietors.

First. If the whole or a portion of the Lands of a Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other Actual Proprietor of Land, who may not have agreed to the payment of the Assessment proposed to him or her under the Regulations above-mentioned, and whose Lands are or may be held Khas, or let in Farm, shall be exposed to public sale, in one or in two or more lots, pursuant to the decree of a Court of Justice, such Lands, if Khas, shall be disposed of at whatever Assessment the Governor General in Council may deem equitable, and the Purchaser or Purchasers of such Lands, and his or her or their Heirs and lawful Successors shall hold the Lands at the Assessment at which they may be so purchased for ever. If the Lands, at the time of their being exposed to sale, shall be held in Farm, and shall be put up in one or in two or more lots, they shall be disposed of under the following Conditions. The Purchaser or Purchasers shall receive during

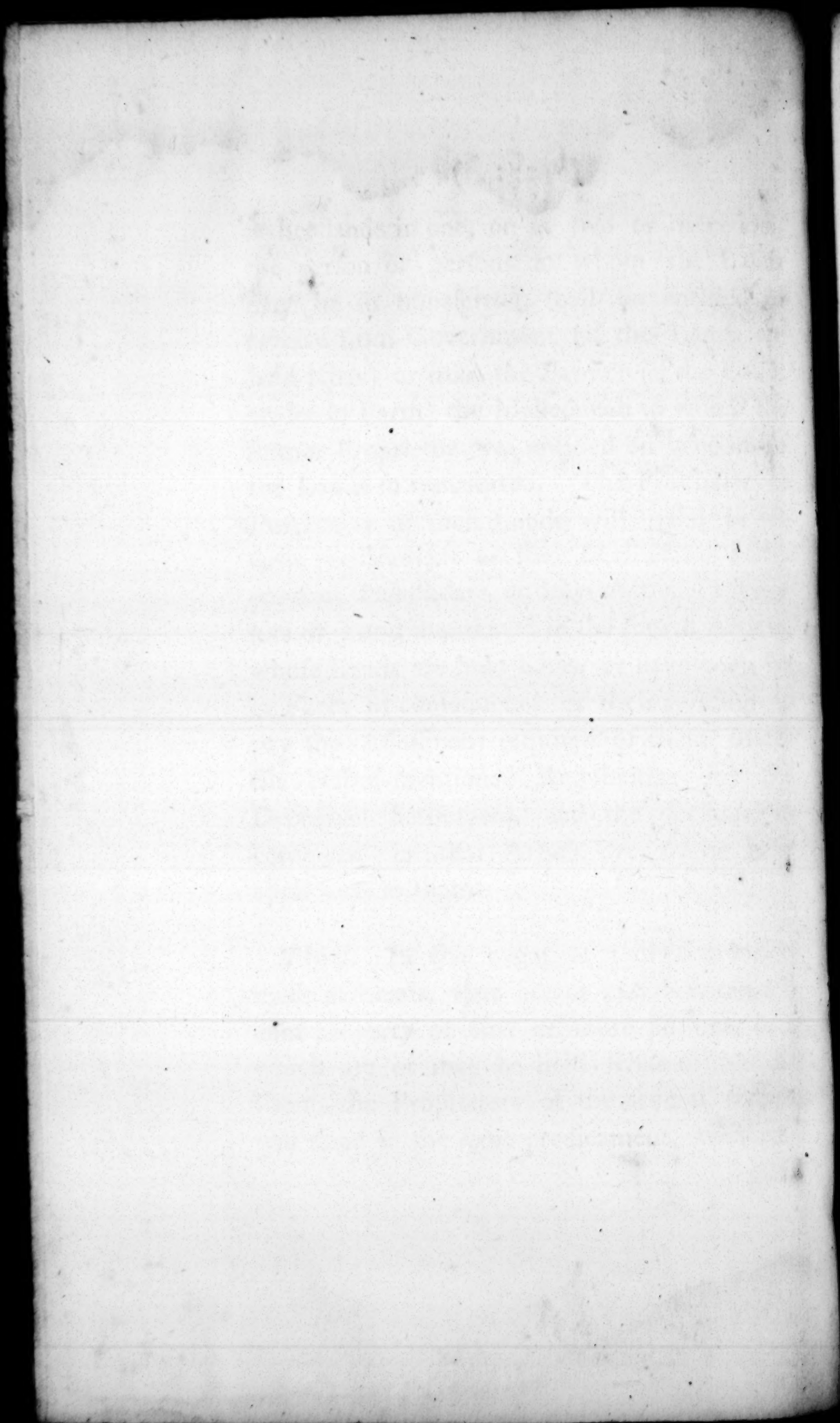


during the unexpired part of the term of the lease of the Farmer, whatever such Proprietor shall have been entitled to receive in virtue of his or her Proprietary Rights on accounts of the Lands so purchased, and such Purchaser or Purchasers shall engage to pay at the expiration of the lease of the Farmer such Assessment on account of the Lands as Government may deem equitable. The sum to be received by the Purchaser or Purchasers during the unexpired part of the term of the lease of the Farmer, and the Jumma to be paid by such Purchaser or Purchasers after the expiration of the lease, shall be specified at the time of the sale, and such Purchaser or Purchasers, and his or her or their Heirs and lawful Successors, shall be allowed to hold the Lands at the Assessment at which they may be so purchased for ever.

Second. If a Zemindar, Independent Talookdar, or other Actual Proprietor of Land, whose Lands are or may be held Khas, or let in Farm, shall transfer by private sale, gift, or otherwise, the whole or a portion of his
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or her lands in one, or in two or more lots, the person or persons to whom the Lands may be so transferred, shall be entitled to receive from Government (if the Lands are held Khas) or from the Farmer (if the Lands are let in Farm) the Maliconnah to which the former Proprietor was entitled on account of the Lands so transferred. The Purchaser or Purchasers of such Lands will stand in the same predicament as the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, or other Actual Proprietors of Land mentioned in the fourth Article, whose Lands are held Khas, or have been let in Farm in consequence of their refusing to pay the Assessment required of them under the before-mentioned Regulations for the Decennial Settlement, and the declarations contained in that Article are to be held applicable to them.

Third. In the event of a division being made of Lands, that are or may become the joint property of two or more persons, and which are or may be held Khas or let in Farm, the Proprietors of the several shares will stand in the same predicament, with regard



gard to their respective shares, as the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other Actual Proprietors of Land, specified in the fourth Article, whose Lands have been let in Farm or are held Khas, in consequence of their having refused to pay the Assessment required of them under the before-mentioned Regulations for the Decennial Settlement, and the declarations contained in that Article are to be considered applicable to them.

ARTICLE XI.

The Governor General in Council avails himself of this opportunity to notify to the Zemindars, Independent Talookdars, and other Actual Proprietors of Land, as well as to all other descriptions of persons, that it is his intention forthwith to establish Courts of Justice throughout the country * upon such principles as will put it out of the power of individuals to injure each other with impunity, and prevent the officers of Government from infringing the rights and property of any of the inhabitants of these Provinces,

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* For the List see the following Extract.

by insuring a speedy and impartial Administration of Justice in all cases whatever.

FORT WILLIAM, the 22d March, 1793, corresponding with the 12th of Cheyte 1199 Bengal Era; the 9th of Shabaan 1207 Higeree; the 26th of Cheyte 1200 Fuffily; the 26th of Cheyte 1200 Willaity; and the 26th of Cheyte, 1850 Sumbut.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

A TRUE COPY,

G. H. BARLOW, *Sub-Sec.*

Extract

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Extract from the Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1793.

THE Governor General in Council has been pleased to make the following Civil Nominations to take place from the 1st May, 1793.

JUDGES of the PROVINCIAL COURTS of APPEAL.

<i>Moorshedabad.</i>	<i>Dacca.</i>	<i>Patna.</i>	<i>Calcutta.</i>
Mr. C. Keating	Mr. S. G. Heatly	Mr. S. Charters	Mr. W. A. Brooke
R. Bathurst	S. Bayard	H. Ramus	J. White
W. Douglas	F. Redfearn	B. Grindall	H. Buller
Reg ^r . Mr. W. Wordsworth	T. Parr	A. Wright	J. H. Becher
Assistant J. Ryley	J. Pattle	R. Dicks	C. Smith

CITY JUDGES.

<i>Moorshedabad.</i>	<i>Dacca.</i>	<i>Patna.</i>
Mr. E. E. Burges	Mr. B. Crisp	Mr. H. Douglas
Reg ^r . T. Hayes	Reg ^r . Y. Burges	Reg ^r . C. Buller

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Judges of the Zillah-Courts.</i>	<i>Registers to the Zillah-Courts.</i>	<i>Collectors.</i>
Sháhabad	Mr. J. L. Chauvet	Mr. W. Leycester	Mr. A. Willand
Behar	A. Seton	H. Macleod	J. Routledge
Sarun	C. Boddam	J. Deane	F. Hawkins
24 Pergunnahs	J. Champain	W. Armstrong	J. Scott
Rajshahy	J. Grant	H. St. G. Tucker	T. H. Colebrooke
Moorshedabad	J. E. Harington	A. Gardner	F. Fitzroy
Purneah	S. Bird	G. P. Ricketts	W. Wilkinfon
Boglipore	H. Lodge	F. Peirard	G. Dickinson
Rungpore	M. Leslie	D. Campbell	J. Graham
Dinagepore	J. H. Harington	F. Baring	J. Eliot
Beerbhoom	T. Brooke	R. W. Pattle	C. Oldfield
Tipperah	W. Camac	J. Imhoff	H. P. Forster
Dacca	J. D. Paterfon	C. Roberts	G. Thompson
Burdwan	J. Lumsden	Sir A. Seton	S. Davis
Tirhoot	J. Neave	J. Stracey	G. Arbuthnot
Nuddeah	R. Locke	W. W. Massey	A. Spottiswood
Chittagong	E. Colebrooke	R. Ker	C. Fryer
Momenfing	W. M'Guire	J. H. Martin	A. Tufton
Jeffore	C. Burrowes	H. Strachey	A. Hefilridge
Midnapore	J. Fendall	H. C. Lutleroh	C. Oglevie
Sylhet	J. Willes		J. Willes
Ramghur	W. Hunter		W. Hunter
Calcutta			Gladwin

Commissioner at Cooch Behar, Mr. C. A. Bruce.

Commissioner at Backergunge, Mr. S. Middleton.

* *Register of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, and the Nizamut Adawlut, and Sub Secretary to the Revenue Department.* } M. G. H. Barlow.

Assistant to the Register in the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, — Mr. J. P. Johnstone,
Assistant to the Register in the Nizamut Adawlut, — — — Mr. J. Stuart.

Examiner and Reporter to the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, and Sub Secretary in the Secret and Political Departments, } Mr. J. Fombelle.

* The Sudder Dewannee Audallut, or ultimate Court of Appeal in Revenue Matters, consists always of the Governor General and Supreme Council for the time being.
The Sudder Nizamut Awdallut, or highest Criminal Court is composed of the same Persons.



F I N I S.

